

DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 10, 2018

7:00 p.m.

Members:

Lisa Bansen-Harp*

Rae Leonard

Sheila Svoboda (DCFM)*

Ed Labbe (Elder)

Cathy Melver

Marian Wahl (Deacon)

Opening Prayer

Approval of March 13, 2018 minutes

Agenda: Additions/Corrections

UPDATES:

Youth Education/Activities – Ed Labbe

- Youth attended Latin Palm Sunday service at St. Sebastian's to see other religion.
- Youth Vision Team – Meeting on 4/8 focused on plans going forward.
- Sean's "term" expires in June unless we get approval to extend him
- Model suggests Architect, General Contractor and Laborer roles
- We see that as Vison Team, Admin Team and Volunteers with Youth Coordinator keeping it all together. Perhaps the Youth Coordinator takes over Admin Team/General Contractor role in its entirety.
- No money in budget for Youth Coordinator until 2019 – probably not until 2nd Quarter.
- April 13-14: Haven of Rest service project and lock-in at church – Plans being finalized, but need one more male volunteer for the Lock-In.
- We decided to not consider Youth participation in the Hunger Walk on May 6th.
- June 7: Kalahari Water Park – Plans begin after Lock-In.
- Mission Trip – June 24-29 in Cincinnati via Group. Registrations in process.
 - Planning for ten youth and two adults.
 - Three youth and one adult are registered so far.
- Confirmation
 - 7 out of 10 sessions complete. Session 8 on April 22.
 - 3 Confirmands: Brooke Jordan, Caden Labbe, Ryen Moorhead
 - Confirmation on Pentecost (May 20) – Jon is looking into books and Marian is looking into a cake for the confirmands for after-service reception.

- We need someone to draw up a list of graduating high school seniors eligible for the Spaethe Scholarship. (We will also need a list of students graduating from college this Spring, so we can include all in the recognition of graduates.)
Hannah Stutler and Sonya Lal are graduating high school this Spring.
Lisa followed up with Betsy Engels and daughter Katie is graduating high school(?) this spring. Jon and Sean are considering books to give the graduates.
- Pat Santelli ordered the whiteboard for the Youth room (approx. \$300) that Session approved. Rumors of it's arrival are running rampant (Jon thinks it's here).

Adult Education - Rae Leonard

- Guided Tour through the Bible series –NT in Spring
 - Attendance has been steady
 - Will end on 5/27 with Revelations.
 - Rae plans a short survey to gauge presentation style & topic preferences.
- The Library Conversations group completed *Parenting: A Sacred Path through Lent*.
- Teacher Appreciation Day – May 27 – Are there normally gifts or flowers?

Prayer Quilt Ministry – Marian Wahl

- A quilt will be given May 27 for the baptism of Sam Gilbert.
- Quilt for Roger and Martha Nelson is up and will be ready for them on Sunday.

Children and Family Ministries - Sheila Svoboda

- Tween event scheduled for Earth Day: Sunday, April 22, with Keep Akron Beautiful. The tweens will enjoy pizza at WPC after church, then walk to Will Christy Park, where they will clean up trash.
Keep Akron Beautiful will provide gloves and guidelines about what to pick up. Sign-ups and waivers in process.
- Parenting Speaker – February 25 – Follow-Up
 - \$535 sent to the **Summit County Opiate Task Force Teen Section** along with a donation from the Santelli's.
 - Plans for using this year's donation (May 20 offering)?
- A donation of \$3000 was recently given to support the Children's and Family Ministry. How we can use some of the funds to support children in worship? (worship boxes / bags)
 - Sheila is buying a play loft for the toddlers, a safety mirror and dress-up clothes, as well as sturdy toys with Session approval.
 - Lisa will vet books from the new "Leaving My Homeland" series to see if they are something we could use in the tween program (and house in the WPC library)

so they are available to other children). These books about child refugees from many lands include volumes with Bhutanese and Congolese kids. Akron has a significant immigrant / refugee population from both countries. Paperbacks are \$9; hardbacks \$18.95.

- Many general ideas were brainstormed for ongoing dialogue: Godly Play and Bible Story “kits”, Youth Choir robes, Tween needs, Library acquisitions – Thought is that the Library Conversations Parenting Group should discuss.
- VBS dates: July 9-12, 2018. The theme is PARABLES. Sheila has gathered a team to construct the curriculum. We will use Godly Play materials / presentations as part of the program.
 - The organizing / writing team is in progress.
 - 2 parables each on the first 2 days, 1 parable on each of the last 2 days
 - yoga each day
 - Deb Tondra, Kara Hoffman, Susan Shellito, and Sheila are writing portions. Denise and Laurel will do music; Marian will organize food.
 - We will ask for food donations (Session approved) in bulletin and M4M on June 3.
 - The floor replacement in the Sanctuary could have an impact on VBS, as Wright-Herberich hall will be set up for worship during June and July. Session approved that Wright-Herberich be made available for VBS.

Church-Wide Discipleship events

- St. Patrick’s Day Party – 3/17 5:30-8:00 in coordination with Deacons – Review
 - Food was great, dancing was good, despite audio problems, but they probably needed a mic for the MC. Lots of noise in the back hindered hearing her.
- Alternate idea for next year: Congregation-wide, all ages talent show
 - Discussion was positive – Cathy suggested this ties in with new Choir Director seeing church-wide talent. Marian is familiar with this being successful at another church.
 - One more year of St. Patrick’s Day party is still a possibility. Discussion to continue.
- Memorial Day Picnic – 5/27 after worship – Marian (Deacons) will inform if anything is needed from our committee. Prior notes indicate that Discipleship is responsible for children’s activities.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Eberts Lecture – Alex Sider: Ministering to those with disabilities (Sunday, June 3)
 - He will give the sermon during the service. Will he need overnight accommodations?
 - Like the Feb. 25th luncheon speaker event, we will have the Eberts Lecture after the 10:30 service. Summer services will be delayed until the following week, but service will be in Wright-Herberich Hall, so we will need to do a quick change in setup or have the service with round tables. This was discussed at Session.

- We will pattern food after the Opioid Crisis speaker (except in lieu of soup we will ask for donated salads to go along with sliced meat and rolls provided by Discipleship).
- We'll need childcare.
- Marketing needs for this event as follows (also patterned after Opiate Speaker):
 - Jon should email local clergy
 - Germaine should put together a press release and arrange for a banner
 - Sunday bulletin and Sunday Update emails should start advertising this soon.
 - Ed will provide a Script article (Need bio and/or write-up from Alex)
 - We should do a Minute for Ministry – Who and what date would be available (May 13 would seem best)?
 - Will need sign-up at Connection Point for attendance and salad donations
- Output from Time and Talent Stewardship Team
 - Follow-ups for Sheila include VBS Volunteers, Tween Event Volunteers, Bible Story Teacher and Children's Ministry Committee.
 - Cathy to follow-up with other potential Library Volunteers (Shirley Werner and Becky Harlow). Will also talk to Jamie Willis.
 - Cathy to follow-up with Heather Keane about PW Circles.
 - Need Jon to follow-up with Greg Grafinger about Eye Opener Bible Study.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ice Cream Social: August 18th was communicated to Session for the date.
 - Suggestions for a performer, ideally someone with and interactive approach: Laurel Labbe is trying to contact Hal Walker (a music educator). Sheila knows of someone who combines music and animals. Pat Santelli might have ideas. (Son in law plays the hammer dulcimer) – We need to secure someone soon.

OTHER BUSINESS

Closing Prayer

Next meeting – May 8, 2018 @ 7 pm