

## **Pastoral Team Meeting**

3-7-2019

Minutes: Ethan Tan

Present: Ethan Tan, Lorie Hershey, Amanda Bouwman, Sheldon Rich, Mark Michalovic

### 1. Job Support Group

Ethan and Sheldon gave an update on the Job Support group, which has been focused on practical job search tools. The group has met twice so far, and so far feedback has been really positive. Amanda suggested maybe opening the group up to the general public. Lorie suggested maybe bringing this model to other churches and other communities (eg. Kingdom Builders). Mark brought up talking to Oxford Circle about it.

### 2. Youth Support Group

As a way to help youth and/or parents through stress and anxiety in today's society, we have been talking about creating a support group with an outside professional for the past few months. There was discussion about inviting a therapist to meet with the youth and parents at the same time, or perhaps meeting the parents first if the youth were not particularly interested. Amanda suggested getting feedback from relevant individuals before doing anything, maybe hosting a meeting before bringing in a professional. The goal would be to create a space for youth to work through stress and pressure as a church.

### 3. Exploring Membership

Since 2017, there hasn't been anybody who's expressed interest in becoming a member. Lorie is going to look back at the names of those who've completed New Attenders in the past to see who might be interested in membership.

### 4. Baptism Update

Ezra wants to be baptized on June 9th. Lorie will do a junior high exploring baptism overview class.

### 5. Resources on accessibility

Amanda gave an overview of the highlights in the materials available. Some pointers: "Stand if you are able" is preferable to "please rise," making the bulletin font larger, asking people with hearing difficulty if there's anything we can do to assist. There was discussion on how these ideas could inform things like Worship Service, Sunday School, and Children's Time. Pastoral Team will take the packet of highlights back to review and at next meeting share priorities (starting with a focus on the Brief Accessibility Checklist).

## 6. Healthy Sexuality/Ethics series

Lorie shared a calendar of church events and felt things were really hectic, and that it wouldn't be a good time for a sexuality/ethics conversation this spring. There is certainly interest in having this conversation, but probably in the fall. The pastoral team agreed. Al Vernacchio, author of "For Goodness Sex," may be a resource to facilitate.

## 7. Review of pastoral team size

Amanda and Laurie's term is ending soon, and there was discussion about whether five elders has been better than four. There was consensus that five was better because it frees the team up to do more things, have more perspectives, and help pick up the slack when one or two others need to step away for a while.

## 8. Pastoral care and prayer

## 9. Next meeting

Tuesday, April 2

7:30PM @ Church office