

Pastoral Team Minutes – Jan. 12, 2015

Brenda – Minutes Mark– Facilitator

Present: Pastor Lorie, Mark Michaelovic, Ken Beidler, Brenda Rich

Updates

1. Outreach/Mission (Mark)-N/A
2. Child protection policy/youth.
Interest in youth attending both World Conference in Harrisburg and Convention. WC opens up for single day registration in April. Expensive for both.
3. Parents and children (Ken) Email from Sherri: *Today we had a soulful discussion about John Howard Yoder, and how to teach our children healthy sexuality. I'm wondering if the pastoral team could order the children OWL (Our Whole Lives) sexuality curriculum books as a resource for our congregation.*
Discussed OWL series for Sunday school and other curricula. Talked about certain times of the year whole congregation looks at addressing healthy sexuality and also introduce into younger classes. Young adults have mentioned that they wished they would have had better teaching about sexuality growing up.

Next steps:

1. **Gather Resources—Mark will look at OWL series; Lorie will look at Circle of Grace and the MCUSA website; Ken will talk with Amy Gingerich, publisher, to see what's available; Brenda will ask Alex regarding his own teaching the youth on sexuality**
 2. **Gather people with passion or concern re teaching sexuality**
 3. **Decide how/what/when**
4. Small groups (Brenda) Listing of the groups in the bulletin good. We've added the contemplative small group, as well as the retirement small group.
 5. New Attenders (Lorie)- We've had 3 gatherings to date, latest was Sunday afternoon at Alex and Amanda's. Next is at Tim and Carol MJs.
Brenda heard desire from others to be able to intermingle with new attenders. **We decided to look into a "Guess who is coming to dinner" event. Brenda will confer with Elaine/Tim to do something like this, possible several times, maybe different nights or days of the week, either in early March or early May.** We want to keep in mind the spring calendar of March 22 is world café on church growth, April 5th is Easter, April 24-26 is Church retreat.

Pastoral Team Retreat Planning – Sat Jan 17th, 8:30-noon; Brenda's house is confirmed since there have been heating problems at the River House this week.

1. We discussed logistics: rides, food, other
2. Discuss overall goal for this time. What do we want to walk away with from this retreat? In past have used this time to ask where we sense the Spirit's leading for the congregation (what is bubbling up?) and set priorities for coming year, or for specific areas of focus (i.e. next steps in sexual orientation process). **Lorie will work on this.**

Church Retreat Update

Jane Peifer will be our speaker at our church retreat this year.:

We would like to focus on faith formation throughout the seasons of life. What is needed at different stages of life? What are ways/practices that help us grow? What changes as we grow older? What are things needed in the early years? How are we as a congregation encouraging space for faith to be formed? What obstacles do we notice? What ways can we improve upon?

Any other things we would like to add or suggest to her? **We could have some sessions with youth, some without. We could do Friday night and Saturday morning. Jane might be able to help us plan for the worship Sunday, a generations celebration even if not there, or thoughts for beginning to engage around this topic on Friday evening.**

Update on things in the works (or close to the works...)

1. Peterson Tuscano show "Transgressions: Transgressing Gender in the Bible" This will need to be in the later Spring.
2. Planning a meeting with Kelly Kroehle at the Bryson Institute and The Attic. (*Elders will plan to meet with Kelly sometime in late Jan./Feb. to plan for the workshop with WPMF. Brenda contacted Kelly and confirmed Feb 23 at 6:30 to meet at church office.*)
3. World Café around church growth, Sunday March 22nd after church **This is confirmed to take place at Cedar Works.** We will determine the questions to be discussed, and think through what is our expected outcome? Jennifer Erikson Morales agreed to be the facilitator.
4. Items to schedule this winter/spring, just an FYI: End of Life Curriculum Sunday school class; **We discussed this, and thought that it could be an excellent Adult Ed class for the varying age groups.** Lorie will talk with Sheri and Anne. (??) Exploring Membership Class.(in the Spring)

Other: Decided to have new members sharing the two or more Sundays after Easter, not on Easter, as we head toward Pentecost (the church being added to daily!)

Also suggested that Worship committee invite Ewaure (MCC HR issue) to preach, with SS and maybe on two weeks, on justice.

8:40 Pastoral Care and Prayer

Next Meeting: Next Elders will be 2/9.

Brenda contacted Kelly Kroehle about meeting with Elders, confirmed for Monday, Feb 23 at 6:30pm at church office. Following Elders will be March 9.

Future agenda:N/A

Facilitator and Scribe?