

Pastoral Team Meeting—December 6, 2017

Minutes by Laurie Callan; also present: Lorie Hershey, pastor, Mark Michalovic and Amanda Esh Bouwman

*Began meeting with some centering prayer.

*Discussed Faith Formation support for parents. We have had this on our future agenda for some time. This past year, pastoral team did plan and offer a marriage enrichment workshop on a Saturday morning and are looking to do the same for this. (To give some context, over the last few years, pastoral team has engaged in discussions with the congregation around communion for children, baptism and general faith formation discussions. There were a number of parents who were engaged in these discussions and wanting to have more support/input.)

Laurie Callan emailed John Stoltzfus, Conference Youth Minister, who sent some resources we could use. Laurie to distribute those to pastoral team.

We spent some time on thinking through details for a workshop. Would look to having a Saturday morning event, with childcare and possibly lunch.

Would like to have some input from a facilitator who could speak to our congregational make-up—a progressive church in an urban setting. Would like space for Q & A.

Laurie will create an email to pass around for input from team, before sending out to some of the possible facilitators we thought of.

Will aim for sometime in February 2018.

*We took some time to reflect on the recent worship/Adult S.S. series on Mental Health. Lorie noted that the worship committee will meet in January and be looking at this also.

Lorie had a handout created from discussion at last S.S. session, regarding ways to support one another during mental health crisis or chronic mental illness.

We will continue to think of how best to distribute this and other resources.

This series grew out of discussions between Pastor Lorie and some mental health practitioners who met to plan for our series on Anger, in the Spring. It was acknowledged that we have a number of congregants with anxiety and depression, to various degrees and felt it worthy to look at areas of mental health, in a faith setting.

There was some feedback from an elder from others they had spoken to, wishing we had explored some other areas that weren't covered.

Those present felt that overall, the series was positive, in giving voice to some in the congregation, to share their struggles and for all to hear that we, as people of faith, do struggle in areas of mental health. The series acknowledged the reality that many people of faith live with.

We were glad that a couple of people who have not shared much before, were agreeable to be speakers. Others approached were not comfortable. Worship committee and Lorie will continue to strive to have new voices heard.

We ended the discussion talking about the possibility of a statement, written or spoken, to the congregation, to pull together the purpose going into the series and discussing some of the discussions that were had in S.S., pulling it all together—as sort of a “wrap-up”. Pastor **Lorie to think about how this might be done.**

*Discussed follow-up regarding using the money left from the Franconia Conference Grant received regarding Redemption Housing. (Lorie typed up lots of discussions that have gone on, in the agenda for this mtg. The R.H. Connections Committee, spoke regarding our ideas from the last pastoral team mtg and were positive about them all.)

Pastor Lorie to follow-up with Ron Muse in January, as per his request, regarding speaking to our congregation, in the future.

Amanda will email Nick to clarify if he and/or Robert Kuehl will follow-up regarding hosting a Healing Communities training.

“Human Library” which would be an experiential, educational event for us. **Pastor Lorie will follow-up with him.**

Nick to follow-up with Robert Kuehl regarding showing of documentary Pull of Gravity and get DVD to him.

Nick to follow-up with Joe Syzdek regarding organizing showing of documentary MILWAUKEE 53206. Clarify if Joe plans to organize this and any gather any details.

*Didn't have adequate time to discuss Team Understandings document.

Pastor Lorie to send this out, along with our Pastoral Team Functioning document, and **Team to email feedback** about any changes.

***Laurie to send out some ideas** for retreat evaluations that can be used by church retreat, men's and women's retreats.

***Laurie to send out list of ideas for Spring Church Retreat** that team came up with last meeting.

Follow-up List:

Laurie: Distribute email of resources from John Stoltzfus; create email for possible facilitators of faith formation for parents, workshop and send to team for input; Email ideas for retreat evaluations and list created by team for possible church retreat themes.

Pastor Lorie: Think about possible statement to cover ending of mental health series. Follow-up with Ron Muse in January. Speak with Ethan Tan re: his idea for a variation of a Human Library regarding incarceration and returning citizens. Email team understandings and pastoral team role to the pastoral team.

Amanda: Follow-up email to Nick re: Healing Communities training.

Nick: DVD and follow-up with Robert Kuehl re: Pull of Gravity showing; follow-up with Joe Syzdek re: MILWAUKEE 53206 showing.

Team: Think about follow-up for mental health series resources.

Respond to the rest of team regarding Pastoral Team Understanding and possible changes to Team Function, through email, after received by Pastor Lorie.

Next Meeting: Wed. January 24th.