

## DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 11, 2019

7:00 p.m.

### Members:

Lisa Bansen-Harp (Deacon)-Excused

Cathy Melver

Sheila Svoboda (DCFM)

Ed Labbe (Elder)

Marian Wahl (Deacon)

Mallory Gray (Youth Coordinator)

Rae Leonard

Jon Hauerwas (Pastor)

### Opening Prayer

Approval of May 14, 2019 minutes

Agenda: Additions/Corrections – Corrected title from “Minutes” to “Agenda”

### UPDATES:

#### **YOUTH EDUCATION/ACTIVITIES – Mallory Gray**

- Service event update
  - Akron Zoo for June 25<sup>th</sup> (helping the horticultural crew)
    - Koutniks will chaperone with Mallory and Jon
    - Google invite sent
  - July 8-11th is our VBS
    - Google invite sent
  - July 27th 8:30-11:30 FOOD BANK (Need volunteer application)
  - August 3rd - Offering our services to the congregation.
    - Small jobs of changing light bulbs, batteries in smoke detector, light cleaning and yard work.
    - There will be signup sheet in WHH starting on June 16 for those interested to choose a time slot for that day.
    - We may do two shifts from 9-12 & 1-4.
  - August 15 at Ohio Living Rockynol playing bingo and doing interviews with residents in the Memory Care Unit.
- Youth Coordinator Office Refresh - No update
- Last Youth Event of the year was Cedar Point on June 6.- Everyone enjoyed
- Youth T-Shirt Donation – A member has agreed to donate shirts to the Youth.
  - **Motion will go to Session to approve use of website on back of t-shirts.**
- Ed suggested that a Vision Team meeting is needed soon.
- Fall curriculum is set. Mallory needs to confirm teachers
- It was noted that 2020 will be a Confirmation year – primarily directed at Grades 7-9

#### **PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY – Marian Wahl**

- Quilts for Lynn D’Avello and Sue Henninger were delivered
- No meeting this past month. Suggested recipients are needed.

## **ADULT EDUCATION - Rae Leonard**

- “Who is God?” went through May 26 – 10-12 participants per week.
- Need to have Fall class plans in place for July Script – Rae/Jon
- Discussed Rae’s suggestion to consider using the room vacated by Rockynol’s Adult Day Care program as a space for large classes. There are a lot of other ideas for that space as well. Discussed other ideas for a room for bigger classes. One idea would be to move the Tween room upstairs and move into the existing Tween room. There would be costs involved with this potential Properties decision. No proposal at this point.

## **CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES - Sheila Svoboda**

- Library Conversations – Thinking about Fall plans. Will have in place in time for July Script.
- VBS: ‘The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss’ – 7/8-7/11
  - Snack plans in place
  - June 16 Moment for Ministry
  - 26 registrants so far. Seems on track for normal 40-50.
  - Mission focus will be Akron Zoo Turtle Adoption
  - Lara Troyer (friend of Denise Howell) will lead the music on Thursday at 11:00. She will be paid for her services.
- Children’s & Family Ministry Team will meet late July or early August with Tween teachers

Session tabled the motion add a component about sexuality (*Our Whole Lives*) to the youth curriculum pending answers to questions about training costs and pastoral review. Pastor Jon expressed his willingness to review the curriculum, editing it if deemed appropriate.

**Sheila will follow-up re: training costs and advise before we resubmit to Session.**

**MOTION:** For OWL to be added to Youth curriculum

*Our Whole Lives: Sexuality and Our Faith* is a comprehensive sexuality curriculum for K-Adult participants. Because it can be particularly pertinent to discuss sexuality/faith with youth, we would propose that WPC add the Grades 7-9 curriculum to our offerings for families with students this age during the 2020-2021 school year. The curriculum was written and is supported by the United Church of Christ and Unitarian Universalists of America. The Presbyterian Church does not have a sexuality curriculum designed by themselves, but recommends OWL. To present this curriculum, the teachers/facilitators must be trained. We propose that Mallory Gray (as Youth Coordinator) and 2 more adult volunteers be recruited and trained to lead this program.

In Akron the UUA church has taught this curriculum for many years and runs it every other year. Ideal numbers are 8-12 participants. The youth who have been part of this at the UUA have repeatedly said that it was one of the most important experiences of their church life.

## **LIBRARY REFRESH - Cathy Melver**

- Cathy is preparing a Session-approved survey on library use. It would be distributed by Survey Monkey and by bulletin insert. Cathy will send the questions to the members of Discipleship for review before finalizing.

## **CHURCH-WIDE DISCIPLESHIP EVENTS**

- Keep in mind for next year: Soup Fest and Jeopardy, Westminster Edition.
  - Deacons will be in charge of the food side of the equation
  - Lisa will not be able to lead this due to family health commitments.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Artistic/Educational Program at Weathervane Playhouse about Teen Suicide.
  - The program is \$200 (Shelly Koutnik will donate this fee).
  - We can use the local Pentecost funds for expenses and advertising.
  - We will plan for November. Mallory will suggest 11/10 to the contact.
  - We will plan for a luncheon after the church service.
  - Leftover Pentecost funds would be donated to a directly related charity
- ADULT FELLOWSHIP (and kids too). The goal would be to gather people every two months or so for an outing or dinner.

**Upcoming event:** June 30 Cleveland Orchestra at Blossom (Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone). Two Sunday Updates for this (June 16 and June 23).

- Memorial Day picnic – 5/26 after worship – Leftovers went to Haven of Rest
- Ice Cream Social – 8/18 after 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Dinner
  - Entertainment: Sarah Matheny and Sam Sapp will present music/nature program “Songs and ‘Tails’ of the Woods” at a cost of \$75 to the church.
  - Marian is in charge of ice cream.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Eberts Lecture – June 2020
  - We have \$2500 in the Eberts Lecture budget. Jon reached out to Will Willimon. His preference would be to fly in on a Saturday and fly out on Sunday, doing some lecturing on Sunday morning before worship, preaching, and lecturing again after worship, if desired. He usually does not receive less than \$1,000 to \$2,000. He was very gracious about it and willing to work with us. Jon has an inquiry out to him for dates next June.
  - Discussion about budget ensued. With anticipated distributions over the next year, we should have almost \$3,500 in the Eberts Lecture fund. We can also reach out to other congregations for participation and funding assistance for a well-known speaker.

- Jon wants Discipleship and Worship to discuss the notice about welcoming children in worship based on a complaint that it gives “the appearance...that this is the most important issue to be communicated to the Congregation”.
- Options include:
  - 1) Leave the announcement as it is
  - 2) Use an abbreviated announcement
  - 3) Move the location of the announcement
  - 4) Delete the announcement altogether
    - Discipleship agreed that this is an important message and needs to continue, but also agreed to allow for flexible variations of options 2 & 3, but strongly opposes option 4. Sheila remarked that she has received positive feedback re: the announcement as well. She also suggested the possibility of a “bookmark” to be placed in the pews with the envelopes containing this message.
    - Jon will take this feedback to the Worship committee meeting on Sunday, 6/16.
- We mostly established the July 2019 – June 2020 calendar, working from the provided draft.

Closing Prayer

Next meeting – July 9, 2019 @ 7 p.m. We will need a substitute minutes person for July and perhaps August.

Aug/Sep Script articles will be due on 7/16.