

Faith Formation Team Minutes
January 6th, 2011

Team Members present: Donna Dorsch, Verlene Lovejoy, Joel Fetter, Cathy Lawrence, Elaine Mikesell, Kay Herner, Becky Erb-Strang, Robin LaBolt, Carol Lantz, Dan Busch

Cathy Lawrence called the meeting to order and Elaine Mikesell shared devotions with us.

Minutes of the November 4th meeting were reviewed. Robin LaBolt made a motion to accept the minutes and Verlene Lovejoy seconded. Motion carried.

UPDATES

Sandusky Valley Region:

- The Women's Cluster has new officers: Rae Maurer and Karen Nance (co-chairs), Karen Welch (secretary), Barb McMichael (treasurer) Next planning Saturday January 29th from 2-4 p.m. at Trinity in Upper Sandusky.

Auglaize Valley Region:

- Overnighter for Youth on Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend Sunday from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. Monday
- Leadership Empowerment Day – Feb. 20th at St. Paul Wapakoneta. The theme will be Stewardship. Guest Speaker will be Rev. Sam Buehrer. There will be other presenters who will offer workshops.

Lakeshore Region:

- Nothing to report.

Cabinet:

- Dealing with financial picture of Association. Bit of a downturn again.
- Kathryn Helleman and Cathy Lawrence to contact people how regions/program districts are doing and how we can be more effective as church in the Association.

Association:

- Saturday, April 30th – Association Meeting – St. John's, Mansfield

Ministry Action Plan

1. Connecting to Churches using The Vine; also on web site
 - Call "Fanning Your Faith"
 - Write a blurb every month. Articles should be sent to Joan via e-mail (as an attachment)
 - Robin wrote an article for December 2010. A couple of churches took our information about Blue Christmas from the Faith Formation team and used it in their local congregations.
 - January: Joel to write an article about "Christmas in July"

- February: Becky to write an article about sharing faith testimonies in local congregations and taking it into daily life. www.vibrantfaith.org is being used in her congregation. Provides a Lectionary bulletin insert with family table graces and conversation starters.
 - March: Elaine to write about making connections between Grandparents/Grandkids
 - Future Months - April: Donna Dorsch – Festival of the Christian Home; May: Carol Lantz (topic TBD); June: Verlene Lovejoy (Faith & Children in Summer) July: Cathy Lawrence (topic TBD); August: Robin LaBolt (topic TBD)
2. Faith Formation Display
- Jan Corbin working on tri-fold display
 - A table has been set aside for us at Association Meeting.
3. Lenten Festival for Next Year
- November 6th, 2011
 - Would be held in the 3 regions (same day)
 - Brainstorming Ideas:
 - Possibly keep four areas from Advent Workshop: Crafts/Faith Formation (make a banner – have materials available there), Worship, Pastoral/Liturgical – (“Lenten Specials” – art classes, Bible studies, Contemporary Issues, Children’s Activities; Movies; Book by Phillip Yancey), Arts/Music
 - Look at how we could encourage people to do something more. Consider resources/ideas we could share. What is something that we could give away? (Mission) For next meeting, make a list of needs that impact our community/association.
 - Have people share how another has been instrumental/inspirational to their life. Compile a booklet called “Faith Matters”.
 - Calendar
 - Do we meet in person or simply provide a resource? Both would be important to reach a larger audience.
4. Faith Practices: “Worship, Learning and Serving for Vital Congregations”
- The Association to look into the possibility to purchase “Forming Community” so that Faith Formation Team can review.

ASSIGNMENTS BEFORE NEXT TIME:

- Everyone: Make a list of needs that impact our community/Association that we could think about to share at our Lenten Festival.
- Everyone: What area would you like to work on for the Lenten Festival?
- Becky: to write February article for The Vine (sharing faith testimonies/living out faith in daily life)

NEXT MEETING: March 3rd. Devotions by **Carol Lantz.**

Respectfully Submitted, Joel Fetter, Secretary

Faith Formation Minutes
March 3rd, 2011

Present: Carol Lantz, Rebecca Erb-Strang, Joel Fetter, Catherine Lawrence, Elaine Mikesell, Verlene Lovejoy, Dan Busch

The meeting was called to order by chairperson, Catherine Lawrence. Carol Lantz shared devotions.

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Carol Lantz to accept them and second was given by and Rebecca Erb-Strang. Motion carried.

Updates

Sandusky Valley: Carol Lantz shared about the Women's Ministry. The theme for the year will be Faith Prints on Our Journey. There will be a picnic and songfest at First UCC in Marion—men, women and children are invited to this. Date TBD. The fall event will be Saturday, October 22nd at Sycamore UCC.

Auglaize: Leadership Empowerment day recently held. The topic was stewardship.

Lakeshore: the 5th Sunday youth event had a dynamic speaker. It was one of the people who survived the Bluffton Bus Accident.

Cabinet: the NWOA did finish the year in the red, but were able to use reserves.

Association: The association meeting will be held Saturday, April 30th in Mansfield. Ron Bufford will be the keynote speaker. The theme will be imagine what is possible: God is still Speaking. The text will be from Philippians 3:13-14. There will be 10 different forums. Becky Sunday will be approved for ordination. Plans are to present a balanced budget for 2011/12 without changing the retention rate.

Ministry Action Plan

- Monthly Articles
 - Elaine to write article about camp for March.
 - Check with Donna Dorsch about writing article for April.
 - Verlene Lovejoy to write an article about children's faith in May.
- Develop Booth/Display for Association Meeting on April 30th (Jan Corbin)
- Lenten Festival – November 6th
 - Touch base – May 15th at all team event
 - See how to interact with Regional Coordinating Teams
 - Topics so far: craft, devotional, missional ideas

Respectfully Submitted
Joel Fetter

Faith Formation Minutes
June 2, 2011

Present: Marilyn Deever, Catherine Lawrence, Kay Herner, Barb Osborn, Luke Lindon, Dan Busch, and Becky Jones.

The meeting was called to order by chairperson: Catherine Lawrence who also shared devotions.

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Marilyn Deever to accept and second was given by Becky Jones. Motion carried.

Team organization was voted upon.

Chairperson: Kay Banks made a motion for Catherine Lawrence to continue as Chairperson. Vote was unanimous.

Vice-Chair: Luke Lindon volunteered. A motion was made to accept by Catherine Lawrence and second was given by Becky Jones

Secretary: Becky Jones volunteered. A motion to accept was made by Barb Osborn and a second was made by Luke Lindon.

Linking persons:

Cabinet: Catherine Lawrence

Lakeshore Regional Coordinating Team: Luke Lindon

Sandusky Valley Regional Coordinating Team: Becky Jones

Auglaize Valley Regional Coordinating Team: Catherine Lawrence to speak with Elaine Mikesell

Association Updates:

-Association meeting was held in April and went well. There were approximately 230 people in attendance. We are thankful to our great hosts and guest speaker. Ron Bufford touched on a lot of things that we have discussed in Faith Formation meetings.

-Periodic Reviews are currently underway for pastors.

-Boundary Training times are available.

-In 2013, we will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Association. This event will be held at Trinity UCC in Tiffin as this is where the first meeting was held. The Association is currently looking for a major speaker for the event.

-Pastor Becky Sunday will be ordained on the 26th of June in Galion.

-Lay School may have their own board. Currently, looking at the criteria for lay school.

Church Development Team: This is now a standing committee and will report to the cabinet itself.

Ministry Action Plan:

Monthly Articles for the Vine-starting in June

Lenten Festival-November 6th:

-Last year's Advent Festival was well received. This year we will look at Lent.
-Instead of having the festival held at one location, this year each region will host the festival. This will make the festival more accessible to everyone. All resources and information will be replicated by the team and given to each regional coordinator so that everyone will have the same information on the 6th.

-We will have again this year four sections of information: Arts/Crafts, Worship/Music, Mission/Outreach, and Lectionary materials/Educational References

-There is to be a team of 2-3 people researching resources under each of the four categories. The teams thus far include:

Lectionary/Educational Materials: Marilyn Deever and Cathy Lawrence

Worship and Music: Luke Lindon and Becky Jones

Arts/crafts: Barb Osborn and Kay Herner

Mission/Outreach:

-Cathy Lawrence will email the other team members to see where they would like to help.

-List of things to do:

1. What will the rest of the team do (which category would they like)?
2. Coordinating with Coordinating Teams
 - Contact Coordinating Team Members (Cathy L. to do)
 - Luke suggesting blogging in order to get ideas for each category. He will develop the blog.
3. Gather broad, innovative, fun, thoughtful, and faith formative ideas for November.
4. Pray! Pray! Pray!
5. Next meetings July-October, we will decide who will write the monthly blurb about the Lenten Festival for the Vine.
6. Find church in region to host the Festival for that region.

Devotions Schedule:

July 7, Becky Jones

September 1:

November 3: Luke Lindon

January 5:

March 12:

May 3:

Next meeting: July 7th from 10-12 at the Association office.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Jones.

Faith Formation Minutes
July 7, 2011

Present: Elaine Mikesell, Marilyn Deever, Catherine Lawrence, Verlene Lovejoy , Luke Lindon, Dan Busch, and Becky Jones.

1. The meeting was called to order by chairperson: Catherine Lawrence
 - Welcome
 - Introduction
2. Devotions shared by Becky Jones.
3. The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and accepted with small name changes made.
4. Schedule of Devotions for the rest of the year was passed among the people present.
 - Sept 1: Marilyn Deever
 - Nov 3: Luke Lindon
 - Jan 5: Catherine Lawrence
 - March 1: Verlene Lovejoy
 - May 3: Elaine Mikesell
5. The Vine Article for July was written by Verlene Lovejoy. Elaine Mikesell will write the article for August.
6. Updates from Linking persons:
 - A. Sandusky-will meet July 14
 - B. Auglaize-Becky Erb-Strang will be the contact person.
 - C. Lakeshore-will meet next week.
 - D. The Cabinet: The All-Team event will be August 20th, most-likely at Trinity UCC in Tiffin. All teams come together, including Faith/Formation, to inform each other of the projects in which we are working.
6. Ministry Action Plan:
 - A. Monthly Article for Vine: Promote the Lenten Festival
 - B. - Verlene wrote the Vine article for July.
 - C. Lenten Festival- November 6th. Each region will have its own festival, but with the same material presented at each.
 - Theme for the festival: "Imagine What's Possible...Lenten Style"
 - We are going to create a Lenten series "book" as a team. There will be 8 possibilities for pastors and team leaders to choose from during Lent to present during either mid-week or Sunday services. The weekly themes are:
 - Receiving (blessings, prayer) and giving
 - fasting and feasting

- sounds and silence
- giving up and taking on
- saving and sharing (hospitality)
- old and new (traditions and contemporary)...old story we make new all of the time
- Sabbath and service
- nature and nurture (green)

-Team discussion:

*Arts/Crafts- Verlene joined this team. Possible ideas: Lenten calendar for kids?; Lenten Tree filled with symbols; Resurrection eggs; selling colored eggs which the children color to church members

*Worship/Music: ideas: themed class which coordinated with the Sunday worship service; taize service; using the book What Matters Most as a mid-week Lenten service; mid-week or Sunday Lenten service which deals with various spiritual practices; service for children; Sunday series: Not only what are you going to give up for Lent, but what are you going to receive? (financial, emotional, spiritual things, etc...what are the blessings?); list of music resources; looking at the practice of hospitality (have the entire congregation give up 'their seat' one Sunday and move to another location in the sanctuary); ideas for mid-week service with a meal-focused, formatted and experiential; Celtic service

*Mission/Outreach- Elaine Mikesell will coordinate this team. Possible ideas: Could we look at ways of being 'green' during Lent i.e. Carbon fast? Tree with ideas to collect canned goods or other items; packages for Armed Service people; working with the El Salvadorian project

*Lectionary/Educational References

-How can we interact with the Regional Coordinating Teams?

7. Meeting Schedule:

-Next Meeting: September 1, 2011 at NWOA office from 10am-12pm.

-Please also plan on attending the All Team Event on August 20th at Trinity UCC in Tiffin from 9am to 230 pm.

8. Closing Prayer by Dan Busch

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Jones, F/F Team Recorder

Faith Formation Minutes September 1, 2011

Present: Elaine Mikesell, Marilyn Deever, Catherine Lawrence, Barb Osborn, Jan Corbin, Becky Erb-Strang , Luke Lindon, Dan Busch, and Becky Jones.

1. The meeting was called to order by chairperson: Catherine Lawrence
 - Welcome
 - Introduction
 2. Devotions shared by Marilyn Deever.
 3. The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and accepted with motion from Marilyn Deever.
 4. Updates from Linking persons:
 - A. Sandusky-met on July 14. Each person is taking 4-5 churches and will become the linking person. There will be a new newsletter and we will feature a church each time. There is new enthusiasm within this group.
 - B. Auglaize-Becky Erb-Strang is the contact person. There is a youth event on Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend at the YMCA in Celina. They meet every other month.
 - C. Lakeshore-They are planning a music event involving choirs from various churches. Next meeting is Sept 21st at 4pm at St. John's in Genoa.
 - D. The Cabinet/Association:
 - *The Association office is in the midst of a lawsuit. The business next to the office is suing saying that there is an easement on this property to which they need access. They feel that people cannot get in and out of their parking lot. They have asked to buy our building to help them.
 - *The expenses have been down this year.
 - *There are churches in conflict. Please pray for them.
 - *The Association office needs more buckets, especially now. Some UCC have been destroyed in the hurricane.
 - *The Association meeting this year is in Elliston on the last Saturday in April (28th). Alice Hunt will be the speaker.
 5. Ministry Action Plan:
 - A. Monthly Article for Vine: The August Vine article was written by Elaine Mikesell. Faith formation shares ideas and information with other churches. Thus, the article for the Vine can be about anything.

-September: Marilyn Deever	-January: Catherine Lawrence
-October: Jan Corbin	-February: Luke Lindon
-November: Becky Erb-Strang	-March: Becky Erb-Strang
-December: Barb Osborn	
 - B. Lenten Festival- Beginning on November 3rd, the Lenten "Festival" is becoming a "virtual" project. We will place our Lenten offering on the NWOA website as a blog. Luke will be the moderator for our blog. We mail him the information at luke@sylvanaucc.org
 - It will be located at the NWOA faithformation.blogspot.com on the address bar.
 - Theme for the festival: "Imagine What's Possible...Lenten Style"
 - The weekly themes are:

-Receiving (blessings, prayer) and giving	-old and new (traditions and contemporary)
-fasting and feasting	old story we make new all of the time
-sounds and silence	-Sabbath and service
-giving up and taking on	-nature and nurture (green)
-saving and sharing (hospitality)	
7. Meeting Schedule:
 - Next Meeting: November 3rd. Luke Lindon is doing devotions.
8. Closing Prayer by Dan Busch

Respectfully submitted, Becky Jones, F/F Team Recorder

Faith Formation Minutes
November 3, 2011

Present: Marilyn Deever, Catherine Lawrence, Barb Osborn, Jan Corbin, Becky Erb-Strang, Luke Lindon, Jim Melter, Donna Dorsch, Verlene Lovejoy, Dan Busch, and Becky Jones.

1. The meeting was called to order by chairperson: Catherine Lawrence
 - Welcome
 - Introduction
2. Devotions shared by Luke Lindon.
3. The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and accepted with motion from Becky Erb-Strang and seconded by Marilyn Deever.
4. Updates from Linking persons:
 - A. Sandusky-new newsletter in process.
 - B. Auglaize-meeting next week. Talking about the overnight youth event in January. Also, they are looking at leadership empowerment event and a date for that event in March. Next Monday there is a leadership event in Ada, overcome barriers to church growth.
 - C. Lakeshore-Youth gathering next Friday to dovetail with the Joe Morris telling of the Gospel of Mark.
 - D. The Cabinet/Association:
 - *Still dealing with a lawsuit from the business beside the NWOA office over the parking area.
 - *Getting ready for the next Annual Association meeting on April 28th in Elliston. President Alice Hunt will be the speaker.
 - *The 50th anniversary is in 2013. Event being planned. Looking for a big speaker for the event.
5. Ministry Action Plan:
 - A. Monthly Article for Vine:
 - November: Becky Erb-Strang
 - December: Barb Osborn
 - January: Catherine Lawrence
 - February: Luke Lindon
 - March: Becky Erb-Strang
 - B. Lenten Festival- The Lenten "Festival" Blog will be up and running the week of Thanksgiving. We will place our Lenten offering on the NWOA website as a blog. Luke is the moderator for our blog.
 - It is located at: NWOAfaithformation.blogspot.com on the address bar.
 - Theme for the festival: "Imagine What's Possible...Lenten Style"

- There will be a new post every Wednesday starting the week of Thanksgiving.
- Directions on how to access the BlogSpot will be in the Vine during the week of Thanksgiving.
- People in our association will be able to access the information by clicking on a tab on the NWOA website.
- If you do not have your info already in for the bog, then email it to Luke and he will place the info on the blog site.
- Facebook tag: Luke will email us the info.
- The weekly themes are:
 - Receiving (blessings, prayer) and giving
 - fasting and feasting
 - sounds and silence
 - giving up and taking on
 - saving and sharing (hospitality)
 - old and new (traditions and contemporary)...old story we make new all of the time
 - Sabbath and service
 - nature and nurture (green)

6. Meeting Schedule:

- Next Meeting: January 5th from 10-noon. Bring items to discuss surrounding Easter morning and how to celebrate Easter. We will also be looking at how to be connectional during the summer: God is Stillspeaking through Summertime Celebrations or God is Stillspeaking...Recognizing the movement of the Spirit! Bring ideas. We will also be examining our roll in mission. Dan gave us the sheets. Are we meeting our goals?

7. Closing Prayer by Dan Busch

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Jones, F/F Team Recorder