

Faith Formation Minutes
January 3, 2013

Present: Catherine Lawrence, Luke Lindon, Donna Dorsch, Becky Erb-Strang and Becky Jones.

1. The conference call meeting was called to order by chairperson: Luke Lindon
 - Welcome
 - Introduction
2. Devotions shared by Donna Dorsch.
3. Getting Your Church Wired Update and Review:
 - a. Going well
 - b. The top 3 areas viewed this fall include:
 - i. 4 Websites your church will ever need: 87 page views
 - ii. Lenten Materials: 53 page views
 - iii. Case For Social media: 42 page views
4. MISSION 4-1 EARTH
 - a. St. John's in Tiffin: Becky Erb-Strang will interview them and place on blog
 - b. Basic info about 4-1 Earth to be placed on website by Luke Lindon
 - c. Can-do: building by Becky Jones
 - d. Caring for the Cornfields: will be written by Catherine Lawrence
 - e. Book may be used as a resource: Dr. Seuss' The Lorax by Becky Jones
5. Examining Vision and Purpose of Faith Formation Team
 - a. Providing resources and information on faith formation and spiritual practices, as well as support, for pastors and churches within our association and beyond.
 - b. Information will be placed in our blog as well as quarterly in The Vine.
6. Meeting Schedule:
 - Next Meeting: March 7 10-noon at NWOA office-Marilyn Deever has devotions.
7. Meeting adjourned by Luke Lindon

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Jones, F/F Team Recorder

Faith Formation Minutes
March 7, 2013

Present: Luke Lindon, Verleen Lovejoy, Brenda Weslow, and Becky Jones.

1. The meeting was called to order by chairperson: Luke Lindon
 - Welcome
 - Introduction
2. Devotions shared by Luke Lindon.
3. Minutes read and approved: Motion Luke Lindon; Second by Brenda Weslow.
4. Getting Your Church Wired
4 websites your church will ever need: Over one-hundred hits now!
5. Mission 4-1 Earth
 - a. What is Mission 4/1 posted on 3-1-13
 - b. Mission 4/1 Earth: 20 ways to contribute posted 3-6-13
 - c. Earth's Resurrection: A Mission 4/1 Earth Theological Reflection posting 3-13-13
 - d. Chasing Ice Documentary posting 3-20-13
 - e. Can-do: will move to fall blog
 - f. Blog about using Dr. Suess' The Lorax (both book and movie) and its potential use during the 4-1 Earth campaign-Becky Jones to write
 - g. Caring for the Cornfields: Cathy Lawrence to write; Luke will contact her
 - h. St. John's in Tiffin-Becky Erb-Strang will interview and place on blog
 - i. Trip to Trash Mountain-blog- Becky Jones and Hannah
 - j. Good Stewardship
 - k. www.fsc.org: place for churches to purchase recycled plates, bowls and cups
 - l. What else?

-“going beyond our walls”: who are we not reaching?; for whom are we blogging?

-Let's go fishing for people and get people excited about the UCC, what we are doing and our churches-

-Thinking outside the box as we blog

6. Scarf Project: Anti-bullying Campaign-US General Synod
 - a. Look for on The Vine
 - b. Each delegate to bring 2000
 - c. See The Vine for details

7. Men's Groups at churches:
 - a. Marilyn and Brenda will talk with the Men's Group at each of their respective churches-interview them and place on blog
 - b. Luke found a statistic which quoted women will bring 6 others to church when excited and passionate; men will bring 60 people when excited and passionate.
 - c. Looking at ways men find support in the church for issues concerning men at various stages within their lives

8. Lenten Project (services ideas posted last year on the blog)-Sylvania UCC-will blog about their experience this year
 - a. Sounds and Silence

 - b. Taking on and give up

 - c. Old and New

9. April 27, 2013 Annual Meeting trinity UCC, Tiffin- 50th Anniversary

Next Meeting: May 2, 2013 10-12 at Denny's (315 W. Market Tiffin, Ohio 44883 419-447-9249) Devotions By Marilyn Deever

Meeting Adjourned by Luke Lindon

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Jones, F/F Team Recorder

Faith Formation Minutes
September 5th 2013

Present: Luke Lindon, Verleen Lovejoy, Brenda Weslow, Donna Dorsch, Wade Pond, Barb Osborn, Marilyn Deever, Jan Bechtal, Cathy Lawrence.

1. The meeting was called to order by chairperson: Luke Lindon
 - Welcome
 - Introductions
2. Devotions shared by Cathy Lawrence.
3. Luke began discussion about the importance of The Pastoral Excellence
 - a. Sustainability of pastoral ministry
 - b. Clear and simple infrastructure
 - c. Goal---60% of Association Clergy participate
 - d. Flexible, yet structured format
 - e. Relationship model that embraces and supports both churches and clergy
4. Affinity Groups
 - a. New Clergy 1-3 years
 - b. Established Clergy
 1. Firelands— Cathy and Casey
 2. Lakeshore- Jon Komperda and Don Giesman
 3. Sandusky- Robin LaBolt and Dave Jones
 4. Auglaize- Becky Erb Strang and Catherine Costello
 - c. Chaplains
 - d. Facilitators (meeting 1-2 times/year)
5. There was discussion around the Clergy Excellence meeting format and structured steps in the process that will remain flexible.
6. Wade Pond talked about a similar program in the PCUSA for new clergy
7. Barb suggested a group be developed for consistory presidents and church leadership
8. Group spent time, pinning church locations and program regions on the map.
9. Diana Butler Bass will be at Sylvania on Sept. 21 for Professional time and Pastoral Excellence will be
10. Information will be e mailed to members of the team—so that the next meeting the team can brainstorm how best to begin to (market) spread the good news about the establishment of the groups.

Discussion around one way to begin is to possibly ask questions: why do we this ? And, how is this different from other clergy groups??

Next meeting will be Thursday November 14th 1:00PM at Trinity UCC in Tiffin
Meeting Adjourned with prayer by Luke Lindon at 3:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Lawrence FF, Team Recorder- Pro Tem.

Faith Formation Minutes: 11-14-13

Attendance: Brenda Weslow, Donna Dorsch, Barb Osborn, Dan Busch, Cathy Lawrence, and Luke Lindon.

Devotions: Brenda led a reading of scripture, the letter "[Dear Parents with Young Children in Church](#)" and prayed.

Review of September minutes: Dan changed #3, #5 and #9 from "Pastoral Excellence" to "Excellence in Ministry." He also stated in #3 line c that the goal should be "60% of Association Authorized Ministers participate." Cathy motioned, Brenda seconded.

We watched the video: [Sustaining Pastoral Excellence: Life in community](#)

Reflections were:

- Interesting to see how pastors are lonely even though they are surrounded by people.
- What was presented and what the program's goals are, is what we should be about!
- Must bring reality alive and show pastors to raise to excellence. Excellence is the standard, not what we aim for. Anything else is subpar.
- Christ ministry was done in community- disciples knew nothing else and they repeated it. How did we fall away from this?
- Healthy leaders = healthy congregations
- Care isn't provided from group; clergy groups lack follow up of members
- This program allows us to get to the deeper faith stories

The group was ready to get this thing set up and the launch date was moved from September 2014 to March 2014. Dan stated that this group was "pregnant with this program" which means this board will give birth and then the Excellence in Ministry Program will be its own board to keep it going. Faith Formation would then support the program by doing marketing tasks and supplying facilitators with prayers and small liturgies. Church and ministry will handle financing and membership enrollment and such like, these boundaries will be set at a later date.

There has been no meeting of authorized ministers in a long time, it is past time we gather and talk about this important program. We will invite Phil Hart and then talk about this program. Possible date is either 2-5-14 or 2-6-14 at Grace UCC in Fostoria. The day might look like this, but Luke will hand over primary planning to facilitators to provide ownership and "knock the rust off" their training in Cleveland:

8-9 a.m. Breakfast

9-10:45 a.m. Worship with Phil and Dan leading

10:45-11 a.m. Break

11-12 p.m. Intro to Excellence in Ministry

12 - 1 p.m. Lunch

1 - 2:30 p.m. Trial and demonstration of small group clusters (a program walk through)

2:30 - 3 p.m. Closing Worship

Faith Formation will plan this meeting in coordination with Dan at our next meeting.

Facilitators need to meet: Date set 1-15-14 at the NWOA offices from 1-3 p.m. with a 12-1 p.m. lunch. Luke will call the facilitators.

Our next meeting is 1-23-14 at 1 p.m. at Defiance. Jan Betchel will lead the devotions.

Respectfully submitted,
-Luke Lindon