

FAITH FORMATION MINUTES
JANUARY 5, 2012

Present: Donna Dorsch; Becky Jones, Catherine Lawrence; Luke Lindon; Becky Erb-Strang; Verlene Lovejoy

1. The meeting was called to order by Catherine Lawrence.
 - Welcome
 - Introduction
2. Devotions shared by Catherine Lawrence.
3. The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and accepted with motion from Luke Lindon and second by Becky Erb-Strang.
4. Association Updates:
5. Updates from linking persons:
 - a. Sandusky Valley- no new news.
 - b. Auglaize- no January youth event; have not met since November.
 - c. Lakeshore-hymn sing
 - d. The Cabinet-the lawsuit will go to court in June; preparing for annual meeting in April
6. Ministry Action Plan
 - a. Monthly Articles for the Vine: January- Catherine Lawrence; February-Luke Lindon; March-Becky Erb-Strang.
 - b. Update Lenten Festival-virtual project blog Spot (with appreciation for Luke's gifts)
 - 300 hits per month
 - c. Discussion of Easter Morning Celebration-thoughts and ideas
 - place ribbons with the word Alleluia on them...on Easter morning, the ribbons are released into the sanctuary on helium balloons
 - decorating the railing into the church on Easter morning with helium balloons to give a festive feel.
 - have breakfast
 - have a cross with things that people would like forgiveness for throughout Lent and then on Easter morning they would be burned or gone.
 - have people write on rice paper things for which they want to be forgiven and then on Easter morning they are placed in the Baptism font where they dissolve.
 - In Catherine's article for the Vine, she will ask for other Easter ideas that will also be added to the blog.
 - Holy Humor Sunday the Sunday following Easter to continue the laughter of Easter.
 - Mardi Gras Sunday the Sunday before Ash Wednesday and place the Alleluias in a box on that Sunday. Wear gaudy jewelry.

- d. Beginning discussion connecting with our congregations during the summer: God is Still Speaking...Recognizing the Movement of the Spirit (through the warm breezes of summer)
 - think about this for the March meeting and bring ideas for discussion.
 - Fireside Chats in the evenings
 - Summer porch parties-hosted at a different home during summer evenings-Bible study, etc on those evenings
 - In July, collecting money for parents who need help with back-to-school supplies. At Fireside, people will bring their favorite desserts to the church and they are auctioned off to collect money. They then have a picnic after the auction.
 - Blessing of the Backpacks in August.
 - Christmas in July-celebrate with Christmas hymns.
 - Favorite hymn Sunday with a countdown from 10 to 1.
 - Outdoor worship
- e. Discussion re: the role of faith Formation and discussion of how we are meeting our goals
 - Keep blog for year as we move through the Liturgical seasons. Look to see if we have people adding to it.
 - GOALS:
 - Congregational transformation
 - Congregational leadership development: both lay and ordained-Lay School, continuing education for clergy and Christian Education
 - Spiritual gift discernment and sharing
 - Youth ministries
 - Spiritual practices (prayer, praise, worship, etc)
 - Not limited to just the above

7. Meeting schedule

- a. Next meeting: March 1st at 10 am
- b. Devotions: Verlene Lovejoy

8. Closing Prayer by Luke Lindon

Respectfully submitted by Becky Jones

FAITH FORMATION MINUTES

March 1st 2012

Present: Catherine Lawrence; Luke Lindon; Becky Erb-Strang; Verlene Lovejoy

Absent: Jan Corbin, Marilyn Deever, Donna Dorsch, Becky Jones, Kay Herner, Barb Osborn

1. The meeting was called to order by Catherine Lawrence.
 - Welcome
2. Devotions shared by Verlene
3. The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and accepted with motion from Luke Lindon and second by Becky Erb-Strang .
4. Association Updates:
 - a. Annual Meeting in Elliston: Key note: Alice Hunt Do Ask Do tell: Common English Bible: **Matthew 11: 4-6** – present tense:
 1. Next year annual meeting will be held in Tiffin: 50th anniversary : location of first meeting
 - b. Conference updates: OCWM Giving from associations is down- they will look at cutting their budget
 - c. Ohio Conference is in discussion with Massachusetts regarding their: Excellence in Ministry- intentional training clergy.
5. Updates from linking persons:
 - a. Sandusky Valley- no new news.
 - b. Auglaize- March 18th Leadership Empowerment Day- Wapakoneta.
Meeting structure change: one month meeting: next month—intentional team growth-educational opportunity.
 - c. Lakeshore- Choir Hymn Sing- people had fun-
 - d. Court Date July 9 and 10th
6. Ministry Action Plan
 - a. Update Lenten Festival-virtual project blog Spot (with appreciation for Luke's gifts)
 - Readership decline... tease with a lead article in the vine....
 - Linking sites to other blogs :
 - Textweek. Com—March-- Becky
 - Working Pastor- April- Cathy
 - Next meeting discussion regarding : develop a short questionnaire on what Information respondents might find helpful.
 - b. Beginning discussion connecting with our congregations during the summer: God is Still Speaking...Recognizing the Movement of the Spirit (through the warm breezes of summer)
Luke:
 - Entertainment Theology: author: Barry Taylor—movies--
 - Church Hikes and Nature Walks

- Ultimate Frisby- self regulate and turn the other cheek
- Actual Sabbath Sunday---worship at another church
- Science Sunday
- Career Sunday

Becky:

- Applications sent out to young people- Summer Adult Leadership Training (SALT)—budgeted for two: (2500.00 for nine weeks)—spiritual growth- working in pairs..
- Christmas in July: a Saturday and Sunday in July—sing Christmas Carols and the Christmas story
- VBS Resources: World Council of Churches, Habitat for humanity

7. Meeting schedule

- a. Next meeting: Thursday June 7th at 10:00 – please save August 25th All Team Event
 - b. Devotions: Luke Lindon
8. Closing Prayer : Dan Busch.

Respectfully submitted

Catherine Lawrence (secretary pro tem)

Faith Formation Minutes
June 7, 2012

Present: Catherine Lawrence, Luke Lindon, and Becky Jones.

1. The meeting was called to order by outgoing 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 Luke Lindon and second by Becky Jones.
4. New Chair: Luke Lindon; Vice-Chair: Catherine Lawrence; Secretary: Becky Jones
5. All Team Meeting August 25
6. Our next meeting dates will be September 6; November 1; January 3; March 7; then June 10-noon.
7. Devotions September 7th-Becky Jones.
8. Updates from Linking persons:
 - A. Sandusky-
 - B. Auglaize-
 - C. Lakeshore-Stewardship and Caring-Doug Ricci and team will be focusing on health-care for pastors and churches.
 - D. The Cabinet/Association: All Team Meeting on August 25th
9. Blog: Each month have a movie discussion and how they challenge/enhance our faith. Comments welcome. Great conversation starters for churches.
 - Sept 6: Have everything ready for Advent
 - January 3: Have everything up for Lent
 - Total view for Blog is 1325 thus far!
 - ADVENT IDEA FOR BLOG: Facebook Nativity; Birthing Ideas-pregnancy terms- each week is a trimester

The Trimesters of Advent:

-12-2: Pre-pregnancy (preparing for the unexpected-Signs of things to come)

- Luke 21.25-36
- 12-9: Excitement/nausea (Make Ready)
 - Luke 3.1-6
- 12-16: Settled/Comfortable-friends and support (Look Forward)
 - Luke 3.7-18
- 12-23: uncomfortable; is he here yet? (Moving with Mary's Song)
 - Luke 1.39-45 (46-55)

10. Lay School and Church Development, formerly under Faith Formation, will both be under Church and Ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Jones, F/F Team Recorder

Faith Formation Minutes
Sept 6, 2012

Present: Luke Lindon, Brenda Weslow, Donna Dorsch, Verlene Lovejoy, Marilyn Deever, and Becky Jones.

1. The meeting was called to order by chairperson Luke Lindon
 - Welcome
 - Introduction
2. Devotions shared by Becky Jones.
3. The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and accepted with a motion from Marilyn Deever and seconded by Brenda Weslow.
4. All Team Meeting on August 25:
 - a. Advent Blog-info due by the end of June, then have "Christmas in July" blog ideas
 - b. Lenten ideas to be submitted by September or October each year in order to be posted by November.
 - c. We looked at our group structure and the goal/purpose of our group.
5. Devotions November 1- Brenda Weslow ; January 3-Donna Dorsch; March 7-Marilyn Deever; June 6-Luke Lindon.
6. Updates from Linking persons:
 - A. Sandusky Valley-Becky Jones is linking person.
 - B. Auglaize Valley-we need a linking person.
 - C. Lakeshore- we need a linking person.
 - D. The Cabinet/Association: All Team Meeting on August 25th
7. Blog:
 - power of the internet: the negative (the pastor who burned a Koran and posted it on You Tube and the up-roar experienced globally) and the positive (a church grown from 60 to 160 in 2 years with positive on-line church Facebook site)
 - good on-line material is connectional
 - Discussion on church site on Facebook vs. church webpage
 - Social media shows who we really are.
 - There are people within our churches who are afraid of new technology.
 - How can we use the internet in a prayerful manner?
 - Pod-o-matic.com: to broadcast sermons.
 - Social networking started with the front porch and has evolved into various on-line media.

-Luke will be discussing all of this further on the blog this Fall! Look for it and spread the message about the Faith Formation blog site!

- 76% of reasons people use the internet is to search sites on spirituality.

-The internet is a tool.

-Set a timer when you use social media-do not let social media use you-be in control-you can be in control of social media usage.

-Goldilocks Effect: an on-line "image"-when posts do not match what you know-how can you use this as ministry.

-Social media is about a ministry of blessings. It is all about positive presence.

-Send Luke ideas on ecological stewardship for the blog for "Mission 4/1 Earth" Campaign beginning 4/1/2013. The deadline for submission is . The blog will go up in January with these ideas. IDEAS: clean-up roadways; changing of light bulbs in the church; show *The Lorax* and follow it with discussion. What are your "green church" ideas?

8. Group Structure: How effective are the regional groups? Lay School and Church Development Team are spin-offs from Faith Formation. We are a team of resources.
9. There are only 13 people who need to receive *The Vine* by mail. Do they need to receive a Faith Formation newsletter? We decided that we are ok with the blog only.
10. New on-line capabilities at the NWOA office. Great new ways of being connectional through this technology.
11. New Business: At youth event, a new program was released: "Faith In" (building communities of faith)- look for more information to come. This is a UCC program. The web address is faith.in
12. Next meeting: November 1, 2012 at 10 am- please bring your ideas for the "Mission 4/1 Earth" site on the blog.
13. "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise" is the theme of the 2013 Annual Meeting of the NWOA. It will be at Trinity UCC in Tiffin on the last Saturday in April. This is the 50th Anniversary Celebration! Please mark your calendars.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Jones, F/F Team Recorder