

Faith Formation Team minutes

May 21, 2015

meeting at the All-Team meeting, NWOA offices

Present: (team members) David Jones, Wade Pond, Donna Dorsch, Scott Johnson, Katie Jackson, Jan Bechtel. (guests) Juanita Cassidy, Sharon Flickinger, Diane Carter, Jared Ruark, Robin La Bolt, Pat Shatzer, David Culp, Margaret Mills, Jo Kreis-Isaacs

Wade Pond stepped in to chair the meeting in the absence of Jenny Jackson. Members of the team introduced themselves, and reviewed and corrected their contact information for the NWOA records.

Wade reviewed the role and mission of the Faith Formation Team, and its projects over the last few years. Meetings for the coming year were set for Sept. 17, Nov. 19, Jan. 21, Mar. 17, and May 19, from 1:00-2:30, in the NWOA offices. Members will sign up to lead devotions at the September meeting.

Officers

Wade volunteered to serve as vice chair, and Jan volunteered to continue as secretary. Jenny will be asked to continue as chair. Wade agreed to serve as the link to the Cabinet for the meeting today. Since several members were absent, that position, and links to the regional coordinating teams, will be decided at the September meeting, preceded by email discussion among members.

Minutes from the January 22, 2015 meeting were reviewed.

Faith Practices

We discussed the reviews of Faith Practices that we wrote for the *Vine* during the past year. Margaret Mills shared that one of her members used this resource in adult education, but found that the source is overwhelming to use. It was decided that the Faith Formation team try to make it more user-friendly for the selection of resources.

Margaret also raised the question of assessment—how do we know that congregations and people are using this because of the reviews we have shared in the *Vine*? Through NWOA, we can know how many open the *Vine*, but not how many read the whole thing. Jan suggested a simple survey through Survey Monkey.

Communication

Faith Formation blog: Wade has volunteered to re-invigorate this as a centralized site for Faith Formation information and resources. The concern is how to get people to the site. Joan will be asked to email a link to the site (separate from the *Vine*), and there will be a link on the NWOA website.

We will try a blog for 6 months to a year, and then ask for feedback on its usefulness. A Facebook page was suggested as a better location for the blog, being use-friendly as well as open to a wider-than-the-NWOA audience. Churches could share pictures and information on their faith formation programs, with links to their church websites for more information. Wade will set up the Facebook page with a link to the blog.

Other business

Scott shared about an initiative he is involved with to connect with National Guard chaplains.

Meeting adjourned 11:40 for lunch. **Next meeting Thursday, September 17, 1:00, NWOA.**

Jan Bechtel

Faith Formation Team secretary