

NWOA Faith Formation 1-23-14 at Defiance College

Attendance: Jan Betchel, Dan Busch, Brenda Weslow, Barb Osborn, Donna Dorsh, Cathy Lawrence, Verlene Lovejoy, Luke Lindon
Fallen Comrade: Wade Pond out with the flu.

Devotions led by Jan from Barbara Brown Taylor's *Leaving Church* and the prayer Thursday from *Psalms for Zero Gravity* by Edward Hays

November minutes approved.
Two topics were the focus of our discussion.

Authorized Ministers Meeting

Grace Fostoria is holding the All Authorized Minister's meeting on 2-5-14
Meal will be Soup, deli and Salad that Barb Osborn will take care of.
Donna will register and pass out name tags numbered 1-10
Breakfast will consist of Pastries fruit and coffee.
A suggested donation of \$5 is recommended.
Luke has contacted Joan about publicizing this event, but had given her wrong info (see appendix).

Vision and Future

Luke spoke about the future of the Faith Formation group and wondered what it would do next year after the Ministerial Excellence Program has launched.

He lifted up three areas to consider: Purpose, Target, and Method.

For example: The Ministerial Excellence purpose is about excellence in the craft of ministry. The target is all authorized clergy. And the method is meeting monthly in covenantal small groups.

What is the purpose, target and method of NWOA Faith Formation? Some ideas:

1. The group will serve as a resource to the facilitators
2. Affirm the gifts and graces of all disciples of Christ
3. Take a leadership focus and host a leadership conference
4. Keep birthing new initiatives or serve as a creative think tank and worship resource for the association.

Various targets and methods were discussed as well as the problems with each. Luke's challenge is to pick one thing, do it, and do it well. And that is the homework of our committee between the next meeting.

That will be the sole topic of discussion at the March 6th meeting at NWOA offices with Cathy L leading devotions and Barb O providing some snacks.

Appendix

Luke is going to eat some crow here as he gave Joan wrong information:

This email went out 1-27-14

How shall we resolve this? Inform ppl of the \$5 cost at registration and take an offering at lunch?

NOTICE: THIS GATHERING IS NEXT WEDNESDAY. PLEASE CALL THE ASSOCIATION OFFICE WITH YOUR INTENT TO ATTEND! 419-447-8323

**All Authorized Minister Meeting at
Grace United Church of Christ
4481 N. US Route 23, Fostoria**

Join us for the All Authorized Minister Meeting on Wednesday, February 5 at Grace UCC - Fostoria from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. You might have heard or read about the Excellence in Ministry which is coming in September 2014. Now you will have a chance to experience the program and hear more about it! Looking forward to our time of fellowship and experiencing the future of our covenant life together. Lunch provided at no cost Call the Association office with your intent to attend. 419-447-8323. *The Faith Formation Team in conjunction with the Excellence in Ministry Facilitators*

Those in attendance: Marilyn Devere, Donna Dorsche, Verlene Lovejoy, Melva Willis, Brenda Weslow, Michelle Dyer, Catherine Lawrence, Barbara Osborn, Dan Bush and Jan Bechtel (Skype).

Devotions: We are in the midst of God's creation. All we are and where we are is among that. Seek to see and celebrate God in the ordinary.

Minutes of last meeting were read and approved with the correction of spelling Jan's last name to Bechtel. Verlene moved and Barbara seconded motion. All those present approved the minutes as corrected.

Debriefing of the authorized pastors event:

42-44 were in attendance.

There were mixed reactions to the whole idea.

How do new members get admitted in mid-year?

If we divide geographically, there is a need to separate spouses and colleagues.

We need to remember those not in a parish setting face different issues.

How will the program develop from here?

Will it be something they look forward to doing?

Dan was pleased we got so many authorized pastors to attend this initial event.

Did people get the proper info about it? We think so, but many wanted more info following lunch. The afternoon was to be details but all of a sudden it was over. They would like to have had stats and further details. How does it go from here? Will there be sign-ups at the annual meeting?

Our vision for the Faith Formation Committee future:

How do we move forward in the future lifting up and empowering all?

Brainstorming how faith formation can do that.

Extravagant welcoming – church 101

Signage

Accessibility

Someone sits with visitors

Vine – include short bulletin inserts to share with congregations

Utilize Faith practices curriculum unit

Purpose – Faith formation?

Target – celebrate and define extravagant welcome?

Purpose – Welcoming?

Target – Each church designates a contact person?

How do we welcome the Christ faithfully and extravagantly?

Being intentional makes it spiritual around the life of the church.

Annual meeting:

Have a display set up to show "sneak peek at what is coming"

Michelle will do a presentation board with index cards (She has the curriculum)

Michelle and Marilyn moved to make this our goal for next year. Motion carried.

It will be announced April 26th at St Paul's in St. Mary's.

The all team event on May 17th will be our next meeting.

**NWOA Faith Formation Team meeting minutes
September 18, 2014**

Present: Marilyn Deever, Catherine Lawrence, Brenda Weslow, Jan Bechtel, Jennifer Jackson, David Culp, Michelle Dyar

The meeting began after the All-Team event lunch at the NWOA offices. Catherine Lawrence led us in discussion of officers and plans for the coming year.

This year's officers will be:

Chair: Jennifer Jackson

Vice Chair: Michelle Dyar

Secretary: Jan Bechtel

Cabinet Link: David Culp

Auglaize Valley Link: Michelle Dyar

Lakeshore Link: Jennifer Jackson

Sandusky Valley Link: Brenda Weslow

This year's focus is the sharing of the Faith Practice of Hospitality with NWOA churches. NWOA has purchased the Faith Practices curriculum, and has permission to share it with our churches. Sharing is limited to NWOA churches, and the materials cannot be sold.

The team members will each access the website (www.ucc.org/faith-practices/fp-secure/), choose a hospitality practice, and write up a short review of it. These will be published monthly in the Vine, with the link to the website, and the note that this curriculum was purchased for use in the NWOA with OCWM funds. Michelle will do the first one for the November Vine; other team members will sign up for subsequent months. Team members are asked to email Jennifer (jennysjackson@gmail.com) their choice of practice, or bring it to the next team meeting on November 20.

The team will meet from 1:00 to 2:30 at the NWOA offices in Tiffin on Thursdays: November 20, January 15, March 19, and May 21.

Devotion leaders:

Nov 20: Brenda Weslow

Jan 15: Michelle Dyar

March 19: Marilyn Deever

May 21: David Culp

In preparation for the November 20 meeting, please check the Faith Practices/Hospitality website, and choose one to review. Email your choice to Jennifer, or bring it with you to the meeting. This is to ensure that we all choose different practices. Michelle will have written her review for the November Vine.

David closed the meeting with prayer at 2:25.

Jan Bechtel, secretary

NWOA Faith Formation Team Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/20/2014

Location: NWOA office, Tiffin

In attendance: Jenny Jackson (Chair), Katie Jackson, Brenda Weslow, David Culp, Donna Dorsch, Wade Pond (recorded minutes), Rev. Daniel Busch (Conference Minister)

- Meeting opened with a review of committee membership.
- Brenda offered devotion on Romans 12:9-13.
 - o Focus on hospitality as being the key to church growth.
- Reverend Busch emphasized that when any of the Faith Practices content is utilized or offered for "The Vine," credit must be given to Faith Practices for copyright usage.
- Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
- Conversations from our links
 - o Sandusky Link (Brenda) – working on a Taize Service either Jan 14/21 at Upper Sandusky
 - Brenda is retiring and a new link for Sandusky Valley is needed.
 - o Cabinet Link (David) – talked about finances in the association improving and some highlights about the upcoming annual meeting.
 - Annual meeting in Sat. April 25th at St. Stephen's (Sandusky). Theme – Unexpected Places
 - Phil Hart (Conference Minister) will be keynote speaker
 - Forums being considered include human trafficking and evangelism
 - Camping funds have been turned around since mothballing Temple Hills
- Discussions on Faith Practices
 - o Suggestion to introduce and do a workshop at the annual meeting picking 2/3 elements of one practice.
 - Highlight the flexibility and user-friendly nature of Faith Practices
 - Contemplate utilizing "Daily Lives" for the annual meeting workshop.
 - o Plotted out reviews of Faith Practices (Hospitality) to be included in "The Vine" on a monthly basis.
 - December – Jenny Jackson – Intergenerational
 - January – Katie Jackson – Young Adult
 - February – Donna Dorsch – Young Children
 - March – Wade Pond – Youth
 - April – Jan Bechtel – Daily Lives
 - May – David Culp – Worship
 - o Be sure to submit articles for "The Vine" on the Tuesday preceding Thursday publication.
 - o Keep reflection articles to approximately 1 page.
- Next meeting scheduled for January 22nd (this reflects a change from the original schedule)
 - o Michelle signed up for devotions for Jan. 22
- Wade closed in prayer