

Children, Youth, & Family Ministry Committee Meeting

February 18th, 2020

Attendees: Becca Mortensen, Stephanie Barth, Ian Bogner, Steve Johnson, Jessica McCarty, Laura Clark, Joanne Zastrow

Devotion: (Dana Bellin submitted to Steve) What can you ask God for regarding the leading of these ministries? Christ is our ultimate example of a leader and our source for patience, kindness, humility, direction, wisdom, etc.

Agenda:

1. Summary of Pine Lake Retreat

In the end we had 21 middle schoolers (one of which was a friend/guest) & four adult chaperones. The weekend was filled with joy, laughter, connection, exploration, creativity, service, worship, and discussion. Learning take-aways:

- a. The youth want spaces to be in community and be themselves
- b. The youth have questions and are just looking for spaces to be created for those questions to be shared and explored
- c. The gender disparity of 3:18 (boys:girls) is something that we might want to think more about. If this is a totally optional event and this was the outcome, we might want to think about why such a drastic difference, does it matter, and if so, what can we do?

2. Middle School updates, health of ministry, ideas for future

Overall things are going well – in the face of declining numbers and more and more families looking to do the home school program of confirmation, there are still wins and God is still present.

Updates:

- a. We are preparing confirmation cards that we want signed by as many people as possible for our 49 confirmands.
- b. Our day retreat for 8th graders in preparation for Affirmation Day is April 19th.
- c. Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) Day is Sunday, May 3rd and you're all welcome to join. Joanne says the balcony is the best view to see the beauty of the day.
- d. We've set welcome dates for incoming 6th graders and freshmen so that they don't feel "dropped" over the summer between ministries.
 - o Incoming 6th graders can join in for Middle School Nights starting June 3rd.
 - o Incoming freshmen can join in for high school youth group starting about two weeks after their confirmation, on Wednesday, May 20th.

Ideas for the future:

- a. We want to have set goals for each stage of ministry and identify all major touchpoints to find our place within those, therefore identifying ways of identifying the health of our ministry not just based on numbers.
- b. We'd like to have our ears on the Verona renewal group's efforts so that we can see our place in that too and be intentional, knowing that youth ministry is big in our congregation's culture.
- c. We need to identify ways of reaching non-confirmation (and non-church school families) to communicate about the events that are open to them so that we really are expanding our scope of connection outside the big programs we have.

3. High School updates, health of ministry, ideas for future

As is typical for our group, attendance is steady and good but sporadic for individuals. Our goal with this? Ensure that our ministry is a welcoming and non-judgmental place to land, regardless of how long it's been. Secondary goal: really push for involvement in bigger events like NYG, Pine Ridge, summer camps, and fall retreat as those motivate future involvement.

Updates:

- a. 10th Annual Chili Cook-Off is set for Friday, March 6th from 6:30-8pm. We'd love to see you all there.
- b. We have a youth room task force compiled of middle school and high school youth, parents of youth, and adults in the fields of renovation/contracting. We have met a handful of times under the approval of Rick Blum and Pastor Chris and in coordination with Rick Thomas. We now have a zone floorplan and are working on timing some demolition and renovation with the BYFY Rummage Sale so that we can save costs on a dumpster. Personal asks will be the key to our funding of these renovations. A goal would be to have things be complete by Sept 1, 2020 in time for the new school year.
- c. Becca is beginning to think about a day or day + night retreat for graduated seniors come June where we can wrap up their time here ceremoniously and equip them with connections and insights. Bringing in college students to speak will be instrumental and we may want to think about coordinating something at the same time for parents – Sarah could be a good resource for that part.

4. What is the strategic plan for the committee and our meetings? What are the touchpoints? Should our focus be more forward-thinking/strategic, execution and reporting based, or a mix? What does this look like?

It is the opinion of those in attendance that we need to really shift focus to be a forward-thinking committee, where basic operations are entrusted to the staff, but the higher-level planning and thinking is the goal of the committee. To do this, we plan to shift the "here's what happened" kinds of updates to being in written form and sent out ahead of time, or briefly explored and celebrated, but that the majority of our meetings should be about goal-setting, brainstorming and problem-solving, and dreaming for the future.

5. Closing Prayer: Joanne

Next meeting's focus:

- *Share insights/gathered thoughts from each member talking to someone from another church about what's going well in their ministry*
- *Brainstorm and map out touchpoints and goals for each ministry stage*

Next meeting's date: Tuesday, March 17th @ Madison campus, 8-9pm

March meeting's devotion leader: **To be assigned/volunteered for**