

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Committee Meeting

May 19th, 2020

Attendees: Steve Johnson, Becca Mortensen, Laura Clark, Pamela Ziemlewicz, Joanne Zastrow, Katie Wagner, Jessica McCarty, Eva Perez, and Rich Johnson

Devo – (Pam) on God’s working things for good – Romans 8:28 (We know that all things work together for good^U for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose) and the story of Joseph in Genesis 50. What good might God be working at in the midst of these struggles?

Introduction of Eva Perez to committee – finishing freshman year at Verona, gifts in theater and music, younger sister

Review of April Minutes and Ministry update: Minutes approved and no questions on ministry update

Summer Camps: (Joanne) –

- COVID Task Force met this Sunday and executive committee met last night to put out a churchwide “no in person gatherings” for the full summer. Children’s ministry plans to continue meeting in online ways (3-5th grade Games and Gather, and grab and go VBS) This year’s VBS curriculum can be used next year and we will use God’s Backyard Bible Camp (theme from years ago) and modify for a grab-and-go VBS program that can be done at the family’s own pace.
- Pam brings up piece that parents might not want to lead their kids through a curriculum and instead having one video that a child could sit down and participate independently. Joanne offers that screen time is also a consideration, so they will work to provide both offerings (straight-through video and grab-and go-offline program methods). Would be released at the end of June or start of July and then have zoom gatherings before church that correspond with VBS themes.
- Jessica asked how the committee can support Katie and Joanne especially without having interns this summer. Joanne asked that people share insights, perspectives, and learning resources. Could use help stuffing bags if it is determined those are desired. Katie asked for candidness regarding what is helpful and not.
- Pamela noted that families likely would not sign up right now but once summer boredom comes, they would.
- Jessica offered that a minimum number by a certain deadline would be helpful in not doing work for something that doesn’t happen/pan out well. Becca asked whether the minimum for in-person camps (25) should be applied to this too, Steve suggested going a little lower because it is new.

Questions on Fall: Steve asked if there are game plans being made for fall. Steve noted that we need different voices to keep things interesting for the youth (ie. small group leaders of Amped can only do so much to keep their youth engaged). Noelle suggests more off-screen opportunities that get youth outside the house and act as a touchpoint with church or a reminder of this part of their lives.

Side Discussion: Pam brought up questions about the timing of worship for young families. Joanne polled the group about if 10:30 is too late for young families, do they go back and watch later or pass for the week? Seemed that a pull is the live aspect for some youth, parents will watch later if they want.

Update on Revamp Sub-Committee: Becca informed the group about the basic topics that have been discussed so far but that for now we're exploring and learning, not making decisions. Pam/Noelle brought up that we need messaging about the why, with a charter, goals, timeline that goes to the public so they aren't caught off guard that this is happening. Becca will ask Eric about proper messaging of task force minutes and work on publishing a transparent message to the congregation about the why. Becca noted that the same would likely need to be done regarding the youth room.

Next Meeting: June 16th

Focus: Children's ministry touchpoints for elementary.

We'll maintain monthly meetings throughout the summer because major decisions will need to be made as summer goes on and there's plenty to discuss otherwise.

Devotion leader: unclaimed