

FELC Ministry Team Minutes

Ministry Team: Youth Connections

Meeting Date: August 11, 2015, 7:00PM Downtown Site

Attendees: Tom Kent, Valerie Kent, Kirsten Owens, Pastor Bryan, Chris Kennedy, Heidi Schreiner, Jeff Wageman

Excused: Barb Schmidt, Lance Schmidt, Jen Wageman

Our primary goal: Equip young people to grow towards mature Christian adulthood

Items that may require council action:

- None

Items that may require budget/finance coordination TO BE PRESENTED TO SUPPORT MINISTRY TEAM.

- None

New Task Force (include in minutes plus complete the form in the team folder)

- None

Ministry team agenda/minutes:

- 1) Opening Devotion (Tom)
- 2) 2015 Budget Progress (All)
 1. Status update – Income shows as less than expected and expenses a little higher than expected for this point in the year. Our income and expense profile is such that we expect a greater proportion of the income to come in later in the year with confirmation fee receipts, and expenses to trend downward. So, overall, we expect hit or beat our team budget.
 2. In our last meeting, we voted to increase the confirmation cost to \$100/child vs. the current \$90 to cover increasing curriculum expenses and the fact that we are covering half of confirmation camp. Note the fees have been \$90 for several years. We will continue to offer split payments for those families that need it. This increase has been communicated to the incoming students and no negative feedback received thus far.
 3. Also looking to further reduce expenses associated to confirmation materials this year, to potentially beat expense estimates.
- 3) Confirmation Update – Kirsten
 1. Calendar for confirmation and related framework for next year
 1. New format for confirmation given Wednesday night worship. Alternating small group and large group nights. Modifying curriculum as well to accommodate the time change.
 2. 7th grade pastor meetings Sep 15-17. 8th-9th orientation on Sep 16 after worship. First day for all grades will be Sep 23. Final class date for 7th & 8th grade will be Mar 16. Affirmation of baptism on April 17.
 2. Confirmation camp recap – Excellent turnout, experience, and good addition of having the middle school interns attend for a couple of days.
 3. Interns provided video of themselves discussing “Hot Topics” such as Sex, Drugs and Alcohol, Media & Materialism, and Suicide. These videos will be used in confirmation as those subjects come up in the curriculum.
 4. “Faith on Trial” will be given to 9th grade students and their parents (replacing “New and Review”).
 5. Kirsten attended Rethinking Confirmation put on by the Synod. Some notes:
 1. Most programs looking to similarly improve parental involvement as a way to drive support and meaning.
 2. We are unusual having a 3 year program. Most are much shorter in duration (6-9 months seemed to be the average).
 3. There is no magic recipe for curriculum, dates, ages, etc. Direction by Bishop Delzer is to “try stuff”!
 4. Our congregation is hardly alone in the percentages of youth that stop attending programming after confirmation. We need to recognize this reality and prepare youth in confirmation for developing their faith outside of the church.
 5. Some congregations are moving away from calling it confirmation and referring to it instead as faith formation.
- 4) Youth & Summer Ministry Update – Heidi
 1. Summer activities recap
 1. ReFuel had better attendance than any previous summer in memory!
 2. High School themed worship on Jul 29 went well, including speakers that talked about the NYG event.
 2. NYG was a hit! Youth were very engaged and enjoyed the experience. The service day was widely seen as the best day of all.
 3. Interfaith High School Group forming in the Fox Valley area. Each church will provide 2-3 HS youth to participate. The HS youth will collectively plan and execute a service project on their own. This program is just getting started so we haven't yet reached out to our own youth to check interest.
 4. Options being explored to promote the Kwik Trip cards better (i.s. having regular availability on Sundays). Potential to combine with coffee sales monthly? Also exploring acquisition of a card reader to enable credit card purchases.
- 5) Old Business

1. With the support of the North Site education team, we have found a room at the North Site that can be allocated as a Youth Room as we have downtown. We will have the youth do some decorating/painting to make it their own.
 2. Prayer partner ministry – After some reflection, on what is working and what isn't, we are going to change the program to pray in "pools" vs. try to match up individual prayer partners to students. The one-to-one matching of the past was too labor intensive. We have a small list of volunteers willing to participate on the committee and act as prayer partners.
- 6) New Business - None
- 7) Next Meeting
1. Next meeting Sep 10, 7:00. We will start meeting on the second Thursday of each month going forward DS.
 2. Need a discussion in the next meeting regarding conducting a youth musical next summer and what that would mean to our traditional summer programming.
 3. Full Time Youth Coordinator – need to develop plan for role and related funding. 2015 budget will not allow this expense this year. \$18-\$20k per year is ballpark cost increase to annual budget. Council and Leadership are in favor of expanding the role with an eye toward including in next year's budget (pending stewardship campaign results of course). Job description needed to articulate for council what positive changes we envision through this role, including the number of kids that would be touched with this. Once developed, we will need to share with Council in a future meeting.
- 8) Close @ 8:50P

Submitted by: Tom Kent