



Learning Ministry Team Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 27, 6:00 p.m.

North Site Library

Meets quarterly

Attendees: Kirsten Owens, Becky Stellmacher, and Deb Walter

Absent: Sara Hechel

- I. In lieu of devotions, and being mindful of the 1 ½ hour ministry team norm, the opening time was used to discuss why religious education is important to each member. This is the first time this group has met.
 - A. There were a mix of motivations and experience including:
 1. Wanting to be more involved for a deeper experience at FELC
 2. Having a long-time interest and volunteer history in education at FELC
- II. The new ministry team structure was discussed
 - A. Group meets quarterly for big picture visioning, continued learning about new possibilities, identifying targeted tasks for subgroup or task force creation
 - B. Maintaining the central purpose (the arrow) of education at FELC, being:
 1. Share the stories of why we are in community
 2. Provide tools for families and the congregation to deepen faith practice
 3. To intentionally create relationships with Christ and each other
- III. Discussion of the trends in religious education at FELC, the ELCA, and protestant mainline churches at large
 - A. Erratic Sunday School attendance due to cultural shifts in Sunday recreational, extracurricular, and work commitments or family preference means that new, creative ideas and experiments will be part of the future of most congregations looking to maintain religious education as a mission
 - B. Cumulative curriculum is not as effective in our current time as it has been in the past

- C. Teaching Sunday School does not feel as impactful
- D. The FELC Communion Class and Confirmation were lifted up as examples of programs where families responded positively to the information and approach
- E. New experiments that churches are trying were discussed briefly
 - 1. Intergenerational learning
 - 2. Wednesday as the main education and worship night (a shift from Sunday as the primary)
 - 3. Baptismal education and connection to keep families connected in the gap between baptism and religious education
 - 4. Milestone Ministry

IV. Work for next meeting

- A. Read Dr. Rev. Rich Melheim's book, "Let's Kill Sunday School (before Sunday School kills the church)" to discuss what may be worth additional consideration and what might not work at FELC
- B. Each member of the team will make a list of:
 - 1. What we do well
 - 2. What we can do better
 - 3. Wish list for where we want to go

V. Ended meeting with prayer

VI. Next meeting scheduled for September 26, 6:00 p.m. at the North Site Library

VII. Continuing Education that will be brought back to the group

- A. Kirsten Owens is attending the Cross+Gen workshop offered by Dr. Rev. Rich Melheim, author of the book the Learning Ministry Team is reading, on July 8 with Laura Tlachac and Ginny Mendoza
- C. Kirsten Owens is attending Rethinking Church: Better Questions, Bolder Experiments event at Luther Seminary on July 26-28 with Pastor Mary Bauer