



Learning Ministry Team Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 14, 2017- 7:00 p.m.
Downtown Site Library

Attendees: Kirsten Owens, Becky Stellmacher, Deb Walter, and Laura Tlachac

- I. Began meeting with prayer
- II. Ministry Housekeeping items
 - A. Designation of Learning Ministry Chairperson and Secretary
 - i. Chairperson- Deb Walter
 - ii. Secretary- Laura Tlachac
 - B. Kirsten explained what each role entails and what her role is as a support/staff person
- III. Discussion of Dr. Rev. Rich Melheim's book, "Let's Kill Sunday School (before Sunday School Kills the Church)" and how we are implementing some of these ideas in 3 of our Major Learning Opportunities (Sunday School, VBS and Confirmation).
 - A. Sunday School
 - i. What are we doing right
 - a. There has been a lot of positive feedback from families, staff and members regarding the change in format.
 - b. Parents are enjoying the Prayer/Blessing sheet and
 1. Enjoying knowing what the kids are talking about at Sunday school. Easy to bring home for further discussion a
 2. Extended family and congregation members are able to ask the students questions since lesson are church wide for the week.
 - c. Implementing the "Faith 5" Idea from "Let's Kill Sunday School" Book, but starting with the difficult part first (Share, Read, Talk, Pray, Bless)
 1. In the future, should be easy to add the remaining portions

2. Previously, FELC and other examples in the book seemed to be trying in the opposite direction with not as much success
- ii. What needs work
 - a. At the Downtown Site, since it overlaps church, would like to have more time in the classroom
 - b. Possible option of cutting the music time down which is currently led by Traci Diehl.
 1. Idea: Use one recorded/YouTube song to get wiggles out at the beginning
 2. Kirsten will talk to Traci what her thoughts are after upcoming Christmas Program
 - c. 3rd grade teacher and students would like more time to learn how to use the Bible to find lessons discussed
 1. Idea: At North Site, no Bibles in pews; option of getting some and allowing time to look for the readings
 2. 3rd/4th grade classes could change format (one week work only on finding Bible Story and next week do an activity)
- B. Vacation Bible School
 - i. What are we doing right
 - a. Kids seems to enjoy going to VBS
 - b. Last year, was Intern led and seemed to provide closure for the kids as an End of Summer last Hurrah with the Interns
 - ii. What needs work
 - a. Major issues that need to be looked at
 1. High Cost
 2. Lack of parent/volunteer involvement
 - b. There were a lot of questions as to what the kids are getting out of it
 1. Is it just a fun activity that parents see as a childcare alternative?
 2. Are the Kids actually relating to the lessons being taught?
 3. Is it too similar to Day Camp at the beginning of the summer?
 - iii. Ideas for where we want to go
 - a. Discussed making it more of a Closing program between the Summer Interns and the kids instead of the purchased VBS format
 - b. Cutting it down to one day that culminates in a meal with the interns, kids, and parents to give thanks for the time spent together over the summer
- C. Confirmation- this was only discussed briefly due to amount of time left, which will be added onto the next Learning Ministry Meeting
 - i. What are we doing well

- a. A great sense of Community within the Confirmation group, which was seen very clearly at the Lance Schmidt Memorial
 - b. As a group, the general feeling is that Confirmation is a very successful program for FELC and the Fox Valley
 - c. Our attendance numbers are higher than many counterparts in the area, even having some students from outside our congregation asking to take part
 - ii. What needs work
 - a. Is there a drop off after Confirmation into the High School aged programs? A feeling of “graduating out”?
 - b. At this time, the Learning Ministry Team feels like there isn’t much need to change something that is working so well
- IV. Next meeting scheduled for February 27, 2018, 7:00 p.m. at Copper Rock
- V. Ended meeting with prayer and a blessing on Kirsten Owens, for everything she is doing and has done for the Learning Ministry at FELC