

Congregational Life Shared Ministry Team
Open Meeting, February 28, 2021 6:00pm

In attendance: Melissa Egger, Coordinator of Congregational Life; Sarah Hayes and Joe Lobl, Board Liaisons; Kelly Rae Kirkpatrick and Robin Taylor, Lay Members; and Aleta Borrud, Shared Ministry Team Liaison

***HOSPITALITY (MELISSA)**

- As we look toward a possible reopening of church in September 2021, Melissa acknowledged several unknowns. We do not know if there will be one service or two; what Covid precautions will be necessary to keep everyone safe; or who will feel comfortable returning to church. Melissa asked the team to think about changing the format from weekly hospitality teams and moving towards one general sign-up for each week (2 greeters, 1 Welcome table, 2 ushers). She suggested this move would be more flexible for people who can't commit to one week all year, would give people a chance to try a job without a commitment, and would take the stress off of hospitality team leaders when regular teams are short. Robin pointed out that this would require a culture shift in how people sign up to help. Aleta noted that she was motivated to sign up by a loyalty to her team and some people enjoy the regularity of the monthly obligation. Aleta suggested that any change in process should be evaluated after a couple of months.
- Melissa proposed the need for having "point people" on Sunday mornings who could coordinate volunteers and answer questions, who would be part of the permanent hospitality team.
- Because of Covid precautions, volunteers will have limited access to the kitchen. This means we cannot have Walden Hill Wednesdays yet and we will only have coffee and tea upon reopening for Sunday coffee hours. Darin could set up and clean up from coffee hour, but a volunteer would still be needed to "oversee" coffee hour.
- The Worship Committee has requested that someone is needed to do AV on a consistent basis due to live streaming, and they suggested Darin. Details of how this would function with his coffee set-up duties still need to be worked out.
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***FELLOWSHIP (ROBIN)**

- Reflection on Past events: We had a very successful Trivia Night, Christmas Drive-Through (planned by staff), New Year's Eve Zoom party, Snow Sculpture Event at Helmers', Snowshoe Event at Soldier's Field, Zoom Valentine Tea, and Snowshoe/Hike/Cross Country Ski event at Quarry Hill. The January Armchair Travel event had a record 48 screens participating!
- Upcoming Fellowship Events:

- Armchair Travelers continues on Zoom on second Fridays through April.
- Pledge Drive Variety Show on March 6 (mix of last year's show and new bits)
- Plans for a pop-up sledding event if enough snow
- Robin will try a small "Soup Singing" event to see if congregation would like it
- Budget Hopes and Dreams for next year:
 - Ingathering Picnic outdoors. All indoor activities with food/potlucks in jeopardy.
- Recruiting new team leadership for next year? (Robin would like to retire!)

***BUDGET**

- Melissa asked for a \$400 increase in Congregational life budget line

***MEMBERSHIP (MELISSA)**

- March, 385 February, 368
- Very good feedback from "Pathway to Membership, At Your Pace"
- 7 New members joined in December (6 out of 7 are pledging!!)
- Virtual Visitor Chat, February 6th
- Spring Pathway to Membership Gathering

***Shared Ministry / Chalice Circles**

- 7 Chalice circle/facilitators with 70 members all meeting over Zoom. All have been successful so far with all agreeing to the covenant to be open and flexible with this new platform.