

Outreach Meeting, May 10, 2021, Minutes

Zoom Meeting

Present: Donna Hess, Renee LaCombe, David Owen, Linnea Ray, Megan Snyder, Pastor Amy Gopp, Martha Williams

Donna opened the meeting at 7:05 pm with a prayer and by reading the church Mission Statement. The minutes from the April meeting were approved.

HABITAT APOSTLE BUILD PROJECT COMPLETE

Donna expressed thanks to Linnea for all she did on this project. Amy appreciated that the dedication ceremony highlighted the ecumenical nature of the project. Apostle Build projects at Habitat are initiated by churches, not Habitat. Perhaps after a few years, we might try to initiate another one.

BIRDIE BAGS

Linnea reported that the best time for us to do distribution is Wednesdays from noon til 2. The Ben Curtis Foundation will drop the bags off for us to distribute. Initially they'll give us 40 bags. We'll do drive through pick-up...Ben Curtis Foundation will provide us with two signs, one for Main, one for Horning. We must record name and phone number of whomever we distribute bags to (this is in case there is a food recall). We give as many bags as people request. (If we run out, we can call BC Fdn and they'll bring more.) Each bag contains three meals (breakfast, lunch dinner) and a snack. In addition, at the first distribution, there will also be a bag of toiletries. We are one of only three distribution sites in Kent.

We will use SignUp Genius to get volunteers to staff the distribution so that the whole church has the opportunity to be involved. We'll start with four volunteers per shift, but will reduce the numbers if we don't need that many. (Either Donna or Linnea will be at every one of the distributions.) Once she knows the exact start date of the distributions, Linnea will contact Leah to set up the SignUp Genius page. Rather than do the sign-up for the whole summer, we'll do them on a monthly basis.

Linnea or Donna will write a blurb for the Messenger to explain this outreach project to the congregation, and a shorter blurb to go in the weekly updates when we need sign-ups.

COUNCIL REPORT

The committee to examine new governance styles is being formed. We'll get updates as their work moves along.

Covid Reopening....everything is still on hold, hoping for a Fall reopening. Rummage Sale is on hold. Our plans for a fundraising Spaghetti Dinner for King Kennedy in the fall hinge on reopening.

Sanctuary lightninging campaign is underway.

Sally Saltzman reports the budget situation is fine.. that we are on schedule for donations, pledges and expenses.

FIVE FOR FIVE OFFERINGS

Strengthen the Church is May 23. Dave did a great job with his introduction to this special offering in the service last Sunday. The giving tab in "Engage" however, had not been set up for Strengthen the Church as of last Sunday. (note..This has now been corrected.)

In the future, we need to ask Heather three or four weeks before a new Five for Five Offering to set up Engage to receive the new special offering. Donna will take care of this.

MONETARY DONATIONS...

KING KENNEDY CENTER GYM

Donna will send our \$1,500 check (which we decided on last month) in July. She hasn't heard back yet from Social Justice about helping us with a (hopefully to occur) Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser this fall.

THE HAVEN OF PORTAGE COUNTY

Construction is proceeding on this future homeless shelter. They are having an Open House this Thursday, May 13, 3-7 pm to show off their progress. It is unclear from their website how much money they need to complete this project. Amy will contact Ann Marie Noble to try to find out.

We discussed making a donation and settled on giving them \$500 now, with the hope to give another \$500 later. We have \$7,500 remaining in our budget to give this year and we want to reserve enough funds to support all the places that we usually give to. (The organizations we supported last year but have not yet given to this year include Safer Futures, Miller House, UCM, Kent Social Services and PFLAG).

Next Meeting:

It was agreed that we have no need to meet June or July.

Our next meeting will be August 9, at 7 pm, hopefully in person.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Williams