

Outreach Meeting, August 16, 2021, Minutes

Present: Donna Hess, Renee LaCombe, David Owen, Linnea Ray, Georgeanne Hoover, Martha Williams

Donna opened the meeting at 7:05 pm with a prayer. The minutes from the May meeting were approved.

SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER FOR KING-KENNEDY GYM

The best time for this would be mid to late October, given all sorts of community conflicts. However, in light of the Delta variant and resurgence of the pandemic, it is probably better to postpone any in-person large dinner until the spring. The question was raised as to how urgent the need is for King-Kennedy to have the money right now (Donna will check with Frank), but it was generally conceded that our fundraiser can probably wait. Perhaps we can all try to think of other kinds of fundraisers that we could have that don't require gathering people together. As a reminder, Donna noted that she sent King-Kennedy \$1,500 in July, and we will be sending another \$1,500 in each of the next two years.

SAFER FUTURES HOPE IN A HANDBAG SPONSORSHIP

Donna will check on the amount for this year. Last year, we sent \$1,250 which was a second tier sponsorship. We'll plan on sending about the same amount this year (or whatever the second tier amount is).

COUNCIL REPORT

Council approved raises for Amy, Kim and Leah. They did not give a raise to Heather (the new financial secretary).

Sally Saltzman is doing a great job as treasurer. It's good to have someone with accounting experience in the job, as she's been able to clean things up and improve organization. Even though donations are down this year, Sally thinks we should be okay because expenses are also down with the building being closed.

At the last meeting, Council approved opening the church for indoor worship on September 12. Livestreaming will continue once we are inside. Donna noted that with the resurgence of the pandemic, it's possible we might not be back inside on September 12. A discussion ensued, noting that all other churches in Kent are back to indoor worship and that the outdoor worship/livestreaming isn't meeting the needs of our oldest members very well. We asked Donna to relay our concerns to Council.

SHOPPING CART SCHEDULE

The shopping cart right now is overflowing. Linnea will verify that Kent Social Services will accept it and she will deliver everything (Donna and Martha offered to help if she needs it).

If we are worshipping outside, someone needs to bring the cart out before the service and take it in after the service. We'll empty the cart every other week for delivery to KSS.

September 5...Renee (roll out and in only)

September 12....Donna (roll out/in if necessary, and empty and deliver to KSS)

September 19....Georgeanne (roll out/in only, if necessary)

September 26....David (roll out/in if necessary and empty and deliver to KSS).

BIRDIE BAGS

We're done for the summer. It was a bit of a disappointment, as only one family came to our distribution. Linnea has a meeting with Candace on Friday, and they will discuss possible changes for next summer. The suggestion has been made that we need to go to the people who need the bags,

rather than expect them to come here. Perhaps the time of day is an issue keeping people from picking up bags. Perhaps we could go to the daycares, go where the bookmobile is (which apparently attracts a lot of people).

VOLUNTEER BULLETIN BOARD INSIDE CHURCH

Renee will update the bulletin board. The purpose of the board is two-fold. One, if someone wants to volunteer somewhere and is looking for ideas, the board gives info on our mission partners and contact info. Two, it informs church members of what we do and who all we help and where their offerings to the church are going.

POSSIBLE COORDINATION WITH MISSION PARTNERS WHO AMY BRINGS IN TO SPEAK

We have had representatives from two different mission partners (Hartville Migrant Ministry and Habitat for Humanity) speak during the service this summer. Perhaps we can coordinate with any speaker appearing by having some kind of donation drive or adding a donation button to Engage for the week or two after a speaker comes in. This would require some coordination.

FIVE FOR FIVE....NEIGHBORS IN NEED

NIN collection will be on October 3.

A member of Outreach will speak during the morning service two weeks prior, on September 19. Donna will speak to Heather before then to make sure Engage has a Neighbors in Need button by 9/19 so people can donate electronically.

MONETARY DONATIONS...

We agreed to send \$500 to PFLAG and \$500 to Ben Curtis Foundation. We also anticipate sending \$1,250 to Safer Futures for the Hope in a Handbag sponsorship.

This leaves us with approximately \$5,000 to give at the end of the year.

Also, this fall, we'll need to decide on where the Christmas Eve offering should go. Last year it went to NAACP.

IS THERE SOMETHING MORE/DIFFERENT WE CAN DO IN LIGHT OF COVID?

A small group wondered if we might partner with Portage County Health to offer vaccines at the Community Meal. However, a poll taken at the August meal indicated negligible interest in getting a shot there. We will not pursue this.

The question was raised as to whether there are other ways that we can help the community in these difficult times. The committee was urged to think outside the box and Donna will put something in the weekly update asking the congregation if they see any unmet needs that we could address.

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be September 13 at 7 pm, location TBD.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Williams