

## Hospitality and Membership Ministry Meeting Notes

September 15, 2021

Present: Harold Hight, Barb Hanniford, Linnea Stafford, Gayle Wall, Eileen West, and Kelley Gifford (guest, chair of Marketing and Communications)

### Opening

Eileen opened the meeting with a “beginning of fall” prayer at 7:10 pm.

### Old Business

- Updated brochure and bookmark  
We reviewed Kelley’s most recent drafts of the brochure and bookmark and provide input. We thanked her for her excellent work.
- Updated welcome bags  
We hope to have the new welcome bags done by the end of September. Pastor Amy needs to write a new letter, and the brochure and bookmark need to be finalized and printed.
- Updated pew cards  
Many thanks to Linnea for updating the visitor cards for the pews.
- Church greeters  
We discussed ways of recruiting greeters for each Sunday now that we have resumed indoor worship and need four greeters each week. We may try Signup Genius and see how it works. We also may see if different committees and ministries would be willing to take a month, much like they did with coffee hours. Eileen agreed to check with Education first about this idea, and Barb will ask at Council meeting. [NOTE: Since the meeting, Barb has made the decision to try Signup Genius, and Education Ministry members are encouraged to sign up in October if possible.] Barb will continue to be responsible for this responsibility and will coordinate with Worship and the Arts and Leah as needed.
- Prayer shawls  
One shawl was delivered in September, and no new names were suggested.
- Birthday postcards  
Kathy Robinson will do September and October, and Eileen will finish the year.
- Get to know a member  
We agreed to feature Frank Hairston in the next Messenger if he’s willing. Our focus for these features is on the mission of the church and the ways in which the member helps to carry it out.

Barb agreed to talk with Frank and write the article if he agrees. [NOTE: Since our meeting, Frank has agreed.]

- Yoga class  
The class cannot meet for now due to restrictions on groups meeting indoors at church.

### New Business

- New Member Orientation  
Proposed new dates are now October 24 (possibly via Zoom) with receiving of new members scheduled for November 7. The updated new member orientation folders should be ready by then.
- Welcome bags for children  
We will revisit this once Pastor Kim has had time to regroup after her leave.
- Stewardship campaign input  
We discussed the question of how our ministry has lived out Kent UCC's mission and vision in 2021, and how will we do so in 2022?

One of Kent UCC's five mission priorities is "providing extravagant welcome," and we have tried to do this in 2021 despite COVID. We have also helped with another mission priority, "caring for our congregation," especially during COVID. We have tried to help connect members and reach out to visitors throughout this challenging time. We have sent birthday postcards to members, delivered Advent bags last year, delivered breads to prospective new members, held a favorite Christmas carol vote culminating with a carol sing (virtual), held a Name That Tune competition via Zoom and a Name That TV Theme Song in person, and more. We have delivered prayer shawls to members and friends going through difficult times. As we look ahead to 2022, we have resumed some of our pre-COVID activities such as recruiting greeters and welcoming visitors in person with bags of gifts and information. We will continue to provide opportunities for members to connect, perhaps working with Fellowship or other ministries. We had set aside the idea of creating small groups but will revisit this in 2022.

Gayle agreed to write up our response for the Stewardship Ministry.

Regarding our budget for 2022, we were budgeted for \$405 for 2021, and we have not spent anything. The post card postage does not appear to have been charged to us.

- Future connection ideas  
We talked about how to reach people who are not coming back in person yet. For example, could we deliver pumpkins to those who aren't coming regularly (have members take them)?

How about an Ugly Christmas Sweater contest? How about a Secret Santa (people would sign up to participate)? Eileen will talk with Pastor Amy to see if any plans are in the works already.

We discussed the need to coordinate with the Fellowship Ministry. Harold suggested that we put a blurb in the newsletter asking people to get in touch if they had an idea for a connecting activity.

Our next meeting is **Monday, October 11 at 7:00 pm.** We will meet via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barb Hanniford