

RELATIONSHIPS TEAM MEETING – MINUTES

March 06, 2024 7:30pm

Team Member				Team Member				Guests
	P	A	E		P	A	E	
Mark Blakley (Elder)	X			Michael Morefield	X			
Therese Blakley	X			Ethan Funk (Elder)	X			
Connie Sommer	X							
MM. – Chris Schupp	X							
WM. – Joanne King	X							

I. Opening Prayer – Mark opened in prayer

II. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes –

Approved

III. Old Business

1. Cornhole Extravaganza Review –

24 adults attended, 14 kids. 6 boards going for the tournament. We were hoping for more people. We had 6 more boards that did not get used. Brought flavored water, pop and bottled water. Most people drank bottled water. Also had cookies and chips. Everyone that came had a good time and got to know other people. Need to have another one. Kids had an area to play in but also wandered into the Cornhole section. One suggestion was to have “teams” compete – like Abide, Women’s Ministry, Men’s Ministry, or Sunday school classes, to encourage people to come. Stay with Saturday night. Have people bring snacks to share next time. Left over snacks were saved for next event. Sam’s cookies were donated to Conversations.

2. Senior Group – Event is planned for April 12th – potluck with an ice breaker game. Mark will start promoting now and have announcement in church on April 7th at both services. We are not putting a restrictive age range on this group, but events will be appropriate for 50+ age range. Some events will be weekend for those still working, and others will be day time for those that don’t like to get out at night. Also hoping that this will evolve into people just spontaneously sending an email to the group to see if anyone is interested in doing something.

3. Website – Michael will work with Session and Coordinating to see if we can get funding for a website redesign. This needs to be contracted out since our current staff does not have these skills. This won’t happen right away, so in the short term, move a few pictures around and update some simple things.

4. Gashland Sign in front of church – Coordinating Team was responsible for the current sign. Relationship Team recommends that the Service times and Sunday School time be added to it.

5. South Lobby Coffee Table – Chris is looking into codes and egress rules. He started some plans but did not present them yet. A 12' 8" path is required for our capacity. A 12' x 12' coffee bar would fit in our space. We want to allow for a person to stand behind it. Had a discussion about a vision for this area – maybe a coffee shop outreach. Not sure what the scope of that would be at this time. What is the vision, what are the ideas? It would involve the Outreach team. Could give us lot of options for other events and ministries also. We want to design the new coffee bar with option for more functionality to be added later and not limit what could be done. Chris will bring some ideas/plans to the next meeting.

IV. Reports –

- A. Abide – Things going well. Should the leadership team meet once a month? Michael said yes. Team is Morefields, Welchs, Ethan Funk, Tyler and Angela Todd, and Scott and Liz Blakley.
- B. The Women's ministry – Joanne King attended and gave report, said their team is in transition. Current members are Mary Long, Joanne King, Lyn Vande Polder and Nancy Williams. They are looking for a younger woman to be added. Their purpose is to help women grow with each other and in Christ. Looking at changing up some of the events. Around the Table gets mostly the same people each month. Thinking about what they can do for more outreach. They need a visionary on their team, since they are mostly do-ers.
- C. The Men's ministry - Chris Schupp attended and gave a report. Talked about the retreat that Aaron Kleinmeyer had for some men. They group needs to stop trying so hard and go back to the drawing board to get some new ideas. They are still doing the Scripture reading and Campfire events each month. They are trying to figure out how to best serve the men of the church.
- D. Prime Timer group – need to put an announcement in the Link about “Coming Soon” to promote the April 12th event. Mark is planning a fun way to announce this during 1st and 2nd Service on April 7th.
- E. Conversations – Connie validated that we are not having Conversations on March 20th. May 1st is the last one. There will be a Maundy Thursday event on March 28th in place of Conversations. Mark Lancaster is doing that, with the cook team's help. There was an issue with a homeless man wanting food on 3/6. The cook team did not feel safe. Mark will follow up with Dave Smith on procedures for this. We need to be looking out for the safety of the cook team.
- F. Community Groups/Small Groups – We need to come up with some inter-generational group opportunities. New people coming into our church are wanting to get in a Community Group or Small Group. There was not any interest the last time Michael tried this – not successful since

Covid. Need a new vision for this or call it something different. Maybe something similar to Summer Socials, but during the year. Ethan brought up the fact that the best way to get to know people is around a kitchen table or working an event together. People are searching for this, so we need some ideas. Maybe bring back Dinners for Eight or something like that. There isn't a short term fix – let's work on something for Fall. In the past, we had people put in groups based on where they lived. How does Undershepherd group fit into this?

V. New Business

1. Conversations schedule – For the week of 3/13, it will just be fellowship. We need to plan what the 4 weeks in April and first week in May should be. Bring ideas to next meeting.

2. Strategy to increase Congregation involvement in activities.

Mark presented a white board with all the ministries that fall under the Relationship umbrella, and showed the amount of events/activities that we have going on. We documented 163 events/meeting/activities through the year. We think we are diluting our events by having so many and people are overwhelmed. We need to figure out what can be combined or done differently. We are trying to do too much. Michael suggested that each team could cut their events in half or partner with another team. We need to get out of our silos and do more things as a congregation. We agreed to bring ideas to the next meeting.

VI. Adjourn

Ethan moved that we adjourn and Chris 2nd it.

Action Items Completed

Recommendations/Plan of Action	Completion/ Follow-Up Due Date	Who is Responsible?
Get Corn Hole boards for March 2 nd event	Done	Mark Blakley
Communicate Corn Hole tournament as much as possible and promote as an ALL CHURCH event.	Done	Mark Blakley
Schedule a meeting for new 50s and Up group	Done	Mark Blakley

New Action Items

Recommendations/Plan of Action	Completion/ Follow-Up Due Date	Who is Responsible?
Work with Session and Coordinating team about the church sign needing Service Times posted - Dave Wiersma		Mark Blakley- Property Ethan Funk
Ask about getting a line item for Tithely for meal donations at Conversations.		Ethan Funk will talk to Phil Josephson
Work with Session/Coordinating about the possibility of updating a few photos/placements on the website in the short-term, with a plan for possible funding of website redevelopment		Ethan Funk Michael Morefield
Promote Prime Timer event for April 12 th		Mark Blakley
Get an email distribution list set up for Prime Timer group – Ellie, Kathy or Mark Lancaster can help		Mark Blakley
Bring plans/ideas for coffee bar area to April meeting		Chris Schupp
Check on availability of large grill for Breakaway/ Church Picnic on June 9 th		Ethan Funk
Discuss with Dave Smith about incident and the procedure for allowing homeless people into church		Mark Blakley
Bring ideas on how to combine/change events for all teams that fall under Relationship to next meeting		All of us

Next Meeting Date	April 3, 7:30pm
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Therese Blakley

Recording Secretary