

Connections Committee Meeting Minutes

Members present: Paula Mattila, Rich Floyd, Kathy Nelson and Jay Tomlinson
The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Sunday January 5th Pot-Luck, Ely Food Shelf & VCC Food Shelf initiatives

Jay volunteered to provide a basket for the Ely Food Shelf cash/check donations at the Pot-Luck on Sunday the 5th of January. Set-up for the Pot-Luck will take place following the removal and storing of the church Christmas decorations on Saturday the 4th beginning at 11:00 AM. Volunteers for serving and clean-up are most welcome.

Food items delivery dates for the VCC food shelf were decided by the committee to coordinate closely with the start of the college semesters: beginning of February; beginning of April; beginning of June; beginning of September. Kathy will work with Kate Cowley at the VCC to coordinate delivery times. A request to the Ad Council will be made for a space to store food items donated from the congregation whenever they can bring items in. In other words, we want to be able to accept food donations at any time throughout the year. We thought the shelf in the room by the basement entrance would be a good place to store food items until delivery times.

Review of Connection Sunday Message

Connections Sunday

1. We renamed the *Round-Robin Dinner Groups* to ***Small Group Gatherings***.
2. Kathy agreed to coordinate the feedback from the initial groups, hopefully asking a member from each group to speak about their experience. She will try to recruit speakers who are not as prominent “doers” with church activities.
3. Kathy will also up-date the sign-up cards for the next session of our Small Group Gatherings and will announce the time frame of March through May for the next session.
4. Paula will speak to the Quit and Prayer Shawl Ministries and present examples.
5. Jay will share the other responsibilities of Connections focusing on our outreach initiatives and group studies. He will also present some of the initiatives that could be handled by adjunct committee members and encourage congregation members to volunteer for some of those tasks.

Possible adjunct member initiatives:

1. Birthday Club (if Patty wishes to pass on this initiative)
2. Sending appropriate cards to our prayer wall persons
3. Membership and tracking
4. *The Ely Echo & Timber Jay* church advertising
5. Sunday morning Church greeters
6. Muti-church service coordinator (August function)

NEW BUSINESS

Worship Leader Outline:

Jay spoke to Dan Johnson about providing a template worship leader outline and he didn't think Connections needed to bother with that, especially now that we have a new Pastor assigned.

Initiative suggestions for future consideration:

1. From our December 5, 2024 meeting: We consider coordinating a Christmas caroling group next year.
2. From our January 2, 2025 meeting: We consider coordinating ‘card making’ days.

January 2, 2025

3. From our January 2, 2025 meeting: We think about a clothing drive for VCC students. Begin planning at the September 2025 meeting, collecting winter clothing through September and October and delivering at the beginning of November.
4. What does Ministries to promote Spiritual Awareness within the congregation mean?

ADJOURNMENT

Next Scheduled Meeting Date & Time – Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 5:00 PM