

## Connections Committee Meeting Minutes

Members present: Paula Mattila, Don Ingerson, Rich Floyd, Kathy Nelson, Sue Peterson, Gail Haney, Jay Tomlinson

Jay Tomlinson opened the meeting with a Scripture reading from Hebrews 11

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **1. Review of Connections Responsibilities**

- a) The revised pew *Welcome Visitors* brochure has been copied and distributed into the pews.
- b) Discussion concerning the Pew Pads as to whether or not we should be promoting their use and tracking the information while not having a Pastor included the following concerns. Promoting their use would indeed provide information regarding who is attending church. Analysis of what value the information collected is should be determined by a person or persons tracking the information. There needs to be guidelines in place ahead of time to direct where or to who the information should go. At this time, we do not have anyone to collect and analyze the information, we do not have guidelines in place to distribute the information, and we do not have a Pastor. Until those concerns are in place, or at least partially in place, perhaps we remove the Pew Pads from the pews.

#### **2. Round-Robin Group Dinner Initiative**

We finalized the starting plans for this initiative. Each dinner groups will consist of 5 to 6 people (families might have more) so that each group can complete their rotation within a 3 month time frame. Couples, singles and families may sign up. Sign-ups will remain open until the second Sunday in September which is the 8<sup>th</sup>. Round-robin groups need to be completed before Thanksgiving. Kathy will have index cards made for folks to use to sign-up. The groups will be tracked on the back of the cards and will be stored for future Round Robin Group Dinner assignments. Initial host for each group will be determined after Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> and the remaining members of the groups will be randomly drawn into the groups. The initial host will be contacted and will need to contact the other group members and together decide on the first dinner date and what the host will provide. Thereafter, each group must decide the next dinner date and host, etc. The structure of the dinners can vary based on the group's desires. Examples include the host providing the entire meal, pot-lucks, ethnic cuisines, theme dinners, meeting at a restaurant, catered, etc. Basically, cooking is an option but not required. Each group may decide the length of their dinner meetings, but we felt that no group should feel they need to meet longer than 2 hours unless they want to.

A second Round-Robin Group Dinner session is tentatively set for March through May. The same cards will be used for sign-ups and new groups will be assigned so the make-up will be different from previous group assignments.

#### **3. More frequent Food Shelf Assistance Initiative (Tabled)**

Tabled until a Food Shelf calendar of needs is received.

#### **4. Thoughts on possible Fresh Expressions.**

No new initiatives were suggested. The thought is to put our efforts into our Round-Robin Group Dinner initiative and Food Shelf initiative before working on a new initiative. We can still put forward new ideas for the future, however.

August 6, 2024

**5. Adding new members to Connections:** We still need new members for the committee and all were asked to invite someone else to join the committee.

**NEW BUSINESS:**\_\_There was no new business.

**Next Scheduled Meeting Date & Time – Tuesday, September 3, 2024 • 5:30 PM**

Don Ingerson closed meeting closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Jay Tomlinson – Connections Chairperson