

Connections Committee Meeting Minutes

Members present: Paula Mattila, Pam Ransom, Gail Haney, Sue Peterson, Kathy Nelson, Linda Hane, and Jay Tomlinson

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. and we welcomed new member Pam Ransom to the Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Review of Connections Responsibilities

Discussion centered around the Pot Luck to be held on the Sunday following Thanksgiving with church Christmas decorating to follow. Linda Hane will be in charge and we hope to draw volunteers from the Ad Council as many of our Committee members will not be present. (Note: The Pot Luck and Christmas decorating will actually be on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 24th, not after. This was confirmed after our meeting.)

Round-Robin Dinners (or other meals)

Discussion as to how the dinner groups were fairing varied from some groups meeting their third time to other groups meeting for just their first time. Group meetings were not always for dinner. Some groups met for breakfast, others for lunch. The overall results were that the group meetings were informative, fun and repeatable. The Committee planned to ask a member of each group to share a short testimonial sometime on a Sunday in January on their group experience. The Committee also is planning to reshuffle the groups hoping to add additional couples, singles and families to the shuffle in March for a March, April and May session. The Committee also plans to introduce this program to our summer 'snow birds' for a June, July and August session.

Food Shelf Assistance Initiative

Pam Ransom shared how best our church could aid the Food Shelf. She gave a brief Food Shelf history, how the Food Shelf came to be in their new location, the incorporation of a 501 3C Not-for-Profit Corporation in 2018, the times the Food Shelf is open (3rd Wednesday of each month from 11 am to 5 pm and on the following Saturday for quieter shopping from 8-11 am) and the services offered. Pam explained that often food drives end up with varying items that are not really what the Food Shelf is looking for and many items that are out of date or expired and must be discarded. The best way our church can help the Food Shelf is to volunteer and to provide cash donations as the Food Shelf now has the advantage of being able to buy the kinds of foods needed at great discounts putting cash donations to much greater use.

The Committee decided to get approval from the Ad Council to set up Food Shelf cash donation baskets at each of the all-church-Pot-Lucks we have scheduled and to announce the need for volunteers to assist at the Food Shelf. Volunteers could help direct shoppers, deliver food to shut-ins, stock food items, welcome shoppers, etc.

The Committee also suggested we hold quarterly food drives to provide food items to the VCC College Food Shelf for the college students emphasizing the donated food items not be expired. This suggestion will also be presented to the Ad Council for approval.

Linda Hane said she would provide a copy of the list of food items the Executive Director of the Food Shelf, Nancy Schwartz, gave to her. She had also given that list to Ad Council Chair Sheri Rue.

NEW BUSINESS

Adjunct Members

November 5, 2024

It was suggested we ask Nancy Markwardt (as she has shown interest) to join the Connections Team as an adjunct member where we can have her take on a task without having to attend Committee meetings. She would report to the Chair who would share information with the Committee. Committee members are encouraged to ask other congregation members if they would be interested in becoming an adjunct member of the Connections Team.

Prayer Shawl and Quilt Ministry

Paula Mattila pointed out that we gave a Quilt to Don Ingerson this past week and that we have several Quilts and Prayer Shawls available for people who might benefit from them. Paula agreed to make an announcement in church about there being quilts and prayer shawls available and to let us know about people who might benefit from having one.

Meeting Dates and Times Changed

It was decided to change the Connections Committee meeting dates and times to the first Thursday of the Month from 5-6:00 pm just before Choir practice. Many of the Committee members are also choir members and this reduces the trips into town for meetings. All present agreed to the new date and time for meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Paula Mattila closed the meeting with a scripture reading from Jeremiah Lamentations.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date & Time – Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 5:00 PM