

# Christian Education Meeting

## November 6, 2023

Present: Jason Haldeman, David Leiter, Lynne Hockley, Jo Hershey, Craig Coble, Ann Pineda

**Question: Do our congregation's recent CAT survey results indicate that the CEC should be considering any changes to our current programming?** Discussion.

One of the highest rated interests of our congregation is to increase participation by young adults and families with children. As we're inspired to try new ideas to promote that, we feel we'll be supported and encouraged to pursue them.

Pat Leiter and Pastor Jason attended the **District-sponsored program led by Ministry Architects** to inspire creative Christian Education for children. Dave will ask Pat to come and give a report on her experience at our next meeting. Jason is participating in the follow-up zoom cohort sessions - a time when CE leaders from different congregations can share ideas that have been successful for them.

Craig attended our **District Conference** and shared two main concerns:

Financial Support - Giving to the church is generally not the priority for newer and younger members that it has been for those in the older generation. How do we inspire higher and more consistent tithing? Ideas: Involve all levels - Incorporate putting money in a basket as part of the weekly routine during Shine and Blaze. Talk more about the importance of giving in all age groups.

Involvement by children and youth - In the busyness of life, parents may sacrifice their children's spiritual nurturing for their academic and physical well-being. What can we as CEC do about that? (the age-old question ...) It's on us to make the case for young families to come. Maybe a sermon series of the value of faith formation in our lives?

### **CHECK-INS**

Nursery (ages 0-2)

- Ann reported that things seem to be going well. Volunteers are happier when they have babies to hold.
- There is a TV that can be used to tune into the live stream if volunteers wish to.

#### Shine (ages 2-5)

- Numbers are a little lower since some regular attenders advanced to Blaze. We average about 5 per Sunday.
- It would be good to line up some additional substitute teachers to support the regular teachers. We are mindful that our teachers have all been leading Shine for years and may want a break. We should be proactive and have other volunteers in the wings as this happens.

#### Blaze (Grades K-5)

- We had 12 participants in Blaze last week! Things seem to be going well.

#### Kids' Club

- We are back-tracking on the idea of limiting the age to K-3rd grade. That would inhibit some families from coming to the worship hour, and disappoint some of the older kids that are attending.
- There is burn-out in leadership. Where can we find energetic people who would enjoy playing with a group of children for 45 minutes every Sunday? Can we tap into the college Elementary Ed majors - volunteer hours or pay?

#### Jr. High/Sr. High

- Leaders for this school year are: Desiree and Jake Weaver Spidel, Sam and Kelly Epps, Kevin Engle, and Jim Beckwith with Don Ziegler filling in as support.
- Attendance is still sporadic.

#### Post High

- Things continue to go well. Slight drop-off in attendance.

#### Adult Classes

- David's Bible Exploration class resumed October 29. Attendance is good.
- Jason welcomes suggestions for upcoming Discovery class speakers.

## **Teacher Recognition**

- Lynne noticed that the handbook listed Teacher Appreciation in February. That seems like a good time to recognize our teachers during worship and have a luncheon afterward. She will start working on that.
- Question about child care for the luncheon. It would be easier for some teachers and helpers to attend the luncheon if this was provided. Any volunteers to look into this?

**Jason's Sabbath Rest** - Jason will be on Sabbath rest during the months of June, July, and August 2024. That will be a time when our commission will need to step up and take over some of his tasks like regular email schedules for Faifo leaders, speakers for Discovery class, etc. The other two pastors will also fill in.

## **Topics not discussed, but still on the back burner:**

### **Teacher Training**

Be thinking about ways we can enrich and inspire our teacher's experiences.

### **Child Protection Policy**

- Lynne, Jason, Gina Strauss, and possibly someone from the youth ministry team should be meeting to update the policy at some point.

### **Handbook**

- We should look over and update the handbook in the new year.

## **TO DO:**

**Dave** - Ask Pat if she'd be willing to share her experience with Ministry Architects.

**Lynne** - Start brain-storming ideas, make contacts with helpers for the Teacher Appreciation luncheon.

**Jason** - Talk with Naomi about how to tap into the college as a resource for help with children's programming and then make contacts with college staff who may be willing to connect us with suitable students.

**Next meeting date: Monday, December 4 @ 7:00 at the church.**