

## Making a Difference for Kids at GCUMC

**Meeting Date:** April 9, 2016

**Attendees:** Kathy, Becky, Joyce, Elaine, Holly, Linda T. Gretchen

### Teaching Team Discussion:

- After a discussion about personal ministry it was clear that everyone had a prayerful reason to be working with children at GCUMC.
- Encouragement for additional laypersons to assist with SS was discussed and this team will begin to consider other members who might be interested in this ministry.
- All were informed of the need for background checks and Joyce was the only person outside of Holly who had taken the class. We need to clear that up and everyone needs to be retrained. The UMC booklets (2) were taken for further study.
- The group agreed that developing a small group would be beneficial for the entire Children's Ministry. Dates and times were discussed. No definite date was decided. Holly reminded everyone of the VBS meeting on 4/19/16 at 7pm in Rm 109.

### Creating a GCUMC Children's Church Culture

- Parking Lot to Rm 109 Needs: Signage beginning on the outside of the building through to the Educational Wing is needed. Greeting group to make sure that questions are answered and children arrive safely to their correct classroom. Check In so that children are checked in and out of the build at all times. Church entry looks untidy and needs to be taken care of immediately. This includes all of the SS rooms where clutter is everywhere. **If you use something PLEASE put it back or attempt to find a place for it! Extra storage is desperately needed both inside and outside Rm 109.** Laypersons need to be aware of ER exits and what the protocol is for leading children from the building in the event of an emergency. Where is the AED and who is trained to use it? Where is the First Aid kit? Are children welcomed and do parents know that we miss them when they do not attend. We began a huge discussion about beginning to assist families in getting children to our programs. Becky will be looking into the possibility of getting licensed to drive the van/mini-bus so that children can attend all offerings. The group was very enthusiastic about this possibility and Holly has the name of two families who specifically would be interested. This might

also be an important part of Confirmation. Discussion was also entertained about what other programs are offered and what each one of them is designed to cover. Most of us did not know about the other programs and wanted clarification and to encourage their growth. Please add to these notes if I have skipped anything.

### **Technology Savvy Team**

- Apparently the TV does not belong to the SS and is on loan????? However it does need to be elevated and placed on a stand before someone knocks it over and or gets hurt when it collapses.
- Brief discussion about use of Pinterest and Google and we jumped right into the next topic. Unfortunately we did not get to spend much time with this topic which we can save for a later discussion.

### **Create a Curriculum Pre-K to Grade 5**

- Designed curriculum was the favored curriculum. Please feel free to add to any of the lessons and amp up the creativity. The object is to keep the children's attention and to keep them coming back. We have them for so few minutes it is important for them to get as much out of it as possible!
- Discussion followed on how we wanted Children's Church to be approached. At one point it was a part of the 9:30am service, but at this point the preferred way was as we have it planned. Holly will start and then we will break into SS entering the service at communion time so that the children can sing the last song of the service.
- A large discussion followed about reading the text from the Bible every week. It was agreed that children should not be placed in a position to read and that most of the time paraphrasing was a better method. We lose kids as they struggle to read and most of the comprehension goes by the wayside. Anyone who feels strongly needs to visit with Gretchen on this issue privately.
- Team members like to receive their lessons ahead of time and they like to spend time being prepared. (Note from Gretchen which was forgotten....If you don't let me know you are not receiving the weekly correspondence, I won't be able to fix an incorrect address or take care of your concerns.)

### **Connecting Programs**

- Discussion about when to have children move to the next SS class and how we wanted to do this. All agreed that they want the

congregation to be a part of this process. This then feed into a discussion about Bibles. How children get Bibles and when should they get them. We never solved that question.

- Confirmation was also discussed. This is a program that is in it's infant stages and will be developed further this spring. The curriculum is something that I have been reading for the last week and find to be very good. It comes in 3 parts and includes retreats and the use of mentors from our adult membership. At this point the program has had one meeting with Pastor Bill, Scott and Gretchen. The next meeting is on Wednesday, April 13 at 10am.

At this point we were exhausted and stopped. This is all I can remember for today. Please go ahead and amend anything that you see which I have missed. I so appreciated getting to know each of you better through your honesty and deep caring for our children. I would ask you to remember that I will be out of town during June and July. I will not be writing curriculum during that time. I would appreciate it if within the team we could come up with a solution. Let's plan to work on the things that we have discussed and try to shoot for a meeting before I leave, let's say late May.

Thanks again.....G