

February 11, 2013

COCI Steering Committee Minutes

Attending: Donna H., Paul W., Steve M., Chris F., Jan S., Jill F., Jane T., Lynn H., Tim G.

Chris Frantsvog welcomed everyone.

Meeting notes were received from the November 5, 2012 meeting.

Co – Coordinator Report

Chris reported that Jill, Chris and Cheri will meet to review the servant survey on February 21.

Prayer group visits. Tim mentioned the Dingman group no longer meets. Cheri & Chris will visit the three Ames groups. Kathy Reardon will visit St. Tim's and St. Pauls. Jan & Jane will visit Trinity Methodist. Paul is putting together some "Go Bags" with things to give the groups, and will let people know when those are ready.

Feedback on recent events

The February 9 Lectio event was well-attended, said Tim, who added it was a spirit-filled group. Chris mentioned that this was a very broad geographic group: Knoxville, Ames, Omaha. Tim was very pleased about the preliminary help service team. Paul had some great help from other Disciples of Christ churches locally.

Paul intentionally had a co-sponsor (COCI) for that day in order to try to engage a more diverse attendance. There were people from Ames who got to the retreat as a result of checking out the website.

Jane and Cheri had some conversations, several months ago, on ways to try to reach an unchurched audience. **Might try to approach the VA to see if they would be interested. Book clubs might be another group to see if they would have interest in the retreats.** Kathy Reardon used to go out and give presentations, and she would then gather their data and send them information on upcoming events.

Day of Enrichment was hosted by First Christian Church. There were many people working the event who may not have attended if they hadn't agreed to help, but they then found the day to be a very worthwhile way to spend their day – very valuable.

Chris indicated the plethora of upcoming opportunities, handed out copies to everyone, and asked each person to take additional information to share with others who might be interested. Chris said the 8 day retreat is full. Anyone who signs up now will be on the wait list. They are encouraging people to try to get folks to attend the one day event with Carl Arico.

Paul has a team to assist him with this Saturday's event – an introduction to centering prayer. He's also encouraging people to sign up for the March 16 event because it's filling up.

Chris has an event on the 24th, at Collegiate Presbyterian in Ames. Their worship services (9 and 11:15) will be Taize, Lectio and Centering prayer. He invited others in the room to attend. They have excellent musicians who will add their gift to the service.

United in Prayer Day – March 16 – encourage attendance – hand out fliers. It's at Grace Methodist at 37th and Cottage Grove. **There will be a service team from Grace.**

Praying with the Black Madonna – Paul has a flier to be handed out. There's a Friday night option to watch the movie – The Secret Life of Bees – which was part of what motivated Paul to offer this retreat.

June 22 – retreat near Ledges State Park (Nan B). **They could use people to provide some logistical support, i.e. carpooling, talking with Nan – as a service team.** Tim might do some support for her ahead of time. Chris will contact Tim to set this up.

Taize in a Box – what's in the box? Musicians notebooks, 75 participants booklets, cloths and candles. **Chris needs a "Go Bag" and the Taize in a Box for the 24th of February in Ames.** While Taize is not a part of COCI's ministry – they do want to be supportive. Paul is in charge of the Taize ministry.

Any challenges or unmet needs from any of the prayer groups? Stories? Tim said Father Bob, at St. Ann's, wants to increase the attendance. His thought was, during Lent, to do a five week series on Centering Prayer and Lectio. **Tim has the specifics of this but suggested that we do some publicity also – to help increase attendance.** Tim could also contact some people at Our Lady of the Immaculate Heart in Ankeny. Tim could write something to put in the next e-update. Jan and Jane were wondering if Lisa Beckwith, at her church, does anything contemplative.

Tim will have Lectio follow-ups on Saturday, and he's willing to be flexible with which Saturday they begin. **Tim will send Chris a blurb that can be used to promote these follow-up sessions.** Tim can do the 16th, but not the 23rd. Chris could send something to everyone who attended the event and invite them to attend this Saturday, the 16th. For the following week, Tim could provide a video by Fr. Arico and a short discussion.

Hospitality Events – if there is interest, contact the others who enjoy this type of ministry event, i.e. Meredith, Robin, etc. Paul could bring his Spiritual Cinema DVDs to the hospitality events to initiate thoughtful conversation.

Steve Melby mentioned Keating's e-course for Lent.

Paul is talking about doing a Centering Prayer introduction at Plymouth, in November. He will do it with Kathy Reardon, probably just prior to Advent – the 16th or the 23rd.

This Fall's planning will begin at the May meeting. Chris strongly urged attendance at this meeting.

Spiritual Journey on Tuesdays -

Lighting the Flame is a nine-month event – it's a significant commitment. Paul is in the process of investigating how this would work.

Tim is thinking of offering extended Lectio. They would begin by reading Sr. Margaret Funk's book; this would be a year-long commitment. They would choose a book of the Bible to study. This is a specific method of Lectio, and Tim's feeling now is the time to sit with a group and gathering to do some reflection. This would be a weekly meeting.

At the May planning meeting, Chris is suggesting putting all the events "on the table" to talk about what kind of audience each event would attract and what resources would be needed to put each one on. Jan said there was also conversation about choosing some of the 27 videos, but not committing to watching all of them, simply because of the sheer volume. Perhaps they could choose 9-10 to follow the COCI year. There are also some introductory level Centering Prayer videos that could also be offered. **Chris reminded people to bring their ideas and their calendars.**

Paul is asking for ideas if COCI wants to partner with Covenant with retreats for next year. Possibly Martin Laird or David Frenette.

Jan was thinking maybe something could be done to attract youth. She'll be talking to her youth minister to see about doing a Saturday retreat for young people. Chris said that perhaps COCI could lend their expertise to an event like this – if that would be helpful.

Sid Tyler heard of a politician in DC who practices meditation and talked about what a difference it would make in government if others would also participate.

Submitted by Lynn Heuss