

Summary of Suggestions and Comments from Café Sunday Event

September 23, 2018

(source names removed)

Worship and Music

1. Would like to **say** the Lord's Prayer sometimes
2. Could also use VU960 tune for the Lord's Prayer
3. Choir could come down during the service so (you) can hear and feel included
4. Would like to see all the service on the screen (not half in the bulletin and half on screen)
5. I would like to light the candles at the beginning of service
6. There are a number of folks struggling with privacy laws about acknowledging people who need prayers
7. Rearrange our space in a more welcoming arrangement....
 - Less chairs
 - Coffee at our seats
 - Once a month circle
 - 2 tables up at back
 - One of the big benefits of having round tables is for new guests – greeting someone at a table in an intimate mature way probably will have a significant impact on their return to church
8. We should keep the circle worship – perhaps introduce once a month
9. Continue the informal set up. I like Kathi moving about in the service.
10. We need to pray for the troubles in the world – Africa, everywhere.

Caring for People (Member Development and Care)

1. Have a phone committee to call people on a regular basis to keep connected
2. Laura M. will do cards - sending to people
3. Gene Green would be willing to do calling.
4. Georganne Vickery will also help (with Calling)
5. Debby Sturgeon will join the committee but not as Chair
6. Count me in – Caring for People
7. Is there someone who visits congregants during the week? Not just in hospital/sick but friendly visits by minister or 'elders'.
8. Taking care of people who are here before reaching out to others – Regular visits to keep people up to date.
9. Should we consider setting up a group of 'Elders' who can visit people who don't attend often to welcome them back to church.
10. Educate about pastoral care and communion in the home.
11. We must be sure we know who is sick and find some way to visit them and pray for them even though there is secrecy law

Social Groups (Member Development and Care)

1. The clubs/social groups should reach out and invite old members to join their groups.
2. Women for Women suggestions for speakers:
 - Iqna Khalid – MP – Federal gov't

- Women's Health – Michelle Dickie as speaker
 - Women's Health – invite a female doctor to come and speak
3. Saturday Men's Breakfast Group and annual retreat.
 4. Joint Men's group with Eden or Erindale.
 5. Book Clubs – we need another leader to start a new book club as the current ones are full.
 6. Pub Night in lower hall with non-alcoholic beer or 1 craft beer, with dancing, darts etc.
 7. Drop-in at EMUC once a week to start.
 8. Adult Learning:
 - Current Events round table to discuss a current event happening locally or globally and tie to a Christian perspective
 - Start Bible study in someone's home or at church.

Connecting with the Community (Community Life)

1. One of the comments was that Community life was very overt in that you are dealing with people you really don't know and in the past this person preferred to give financial support rather than participate physically. The curiosity was – would I want to change that.
2. Breakfast Club, and one person had never heard of it, so I gave some info on EMYOP and EMYC, and that the Breakfast Club was now not our responsibility anymore, but that we still provided volunteers.
3. Some people said they would like to help out on some areas of Community Life but did not want to be - I guess - a full member. We said that was okay.
4. There were several discussions re the Refugee File. Meeting with our families at last week's "Meet and Greet" was appreciated and people enjoyed putting a face to these families and talking with them. There was also a bit of a discussion around the fundraising we will have to do on this file.
5. Someone asked me after the event for more details about the Blanket Exercise coming up in October. They thought we needed to promote it more.

Building and Property

1. Carpet needs cleaning where there are coffee spills.
2. Consider using non- salt melting material on the steps in the winter to prevent further damage to the concrete steps. I indicated this would be very expensive but Jim thought it would be cheaper than the repairs we had to do to the stairs this year.
3. Discussed refurbishment of the men's washroom sinks and countertop and in general there was a consensus that this should be done this year, provided we have funds. Seems it was planned to be done a few years ago at the time of the ladies' washroom upgrades.
4. Several questions raised on the repairs we did to the lower roofs and tower this summer and also the costs associated with them. They were glad to hear we got some money from the Insurance company on the tower but also thought we should have been able to claim from roof contractor. I explained this was not possible after 12 years. They also did not seem to know we had leaks in the sanctuary this year and this was the main reason for the repairs to the lower roofs and siding replacement. Generally satisfied with explanation after discussion.

5. Fix up the garden in front of the sign in the spring by removing the existing plants and shrubs and simplifying the maintenance of the garden, as Dave Leeder had mentioned earlier. Also some complaints about the additional work to look after the "Spirit Garden" and trying to keep plants adequately watered. (should we consider sprinkler system next year for this spirit garden and also the garden around the sign????)
6. Get Contractor to trim the weeds around all the islands in the parking lot that Susan and Mike Ogilvie look after.
7. Discussed having a group do a "Walk About" the Church building to identify the repairs and any upgrades that should be made to the building over 2018/19. There was general agreement this was something worth doing. I will plan to call a group together to do this in October/ November and make a list of the repairs identified.

Finance

1. Consolidate one-off charity appeals.
2. Run projections against demographics.
3. Define 'benevolent fund' – may contain other charities. Add to PAR form and envelopes.

Communications

1. Have pictures of Kathi in different seasonal stoles for Friday Message to match the banner colour for the season.
2. Use social media more; try Twitter for younger generation. Set up a few people to tweet messages and retweet related things to EMUC. Try using Instagram as well.
3. I know someone who might be able to help/teach about twitter, Fb, Instagram.
4. Get a Mississauga News reporter to come out for a special event and during the interview, talk up our church.
5. I'm willing to write articles for Communique.
6. Have articles related to groups who use church space...Tai Chi, Write on Q, Yoga, EMYC, AA.
7. Use front sign to invite families including children on Sundays. Mention EMU Club/Sunday School.

Think Tank (Congregational Growth)

1. "We Need more colour in the congregation" – i.e, greater ethnic/racial diversity given the demographics of new immigrants
2. A greater focus on "discipleship" – changing/influencing others by the way we live
3. Personal invitations to worship/small group activities
4. People like the 'feel' of the church – (even if they do not return after a first visit)
5. Loneliness is a big challenge in the community
6. How can our electronic communication go even wider?
7. Host more community events
8. We need to review how much we do and prioritize the activities
9. Love the variety of activities we offer!
10. What exactly does it mean to be welcoming -
 - a. Less formal
 - b. Honour different ways of worshipping
 - c. Build personal bonds and emotional connections

11. Think positively and worry less – Jesus told us not to worry
12. More fun – less work
13. We do lots activities for those inside the church. What can we do to go beyond our group?
 - a. E.g, Moms and Tots group – who would lead?
 - b. Community Time on Friday evenings – bill this as a community time not pressure to join the church; may be helpful to those who feel lonely
 - c. View these initiatives as an unconditional welcome to our space, not a plug for the church
14. Communication is key
15. Provide a space for guest artists to showcase their emerging talent
16. There were a number of ideas around reaching out to our community. Communication was also seen as a key element.

Children and Youth

1. use the bulletin boards in downstairs hall to advertise the inclusive children's program
2. have the congregation enjoy a "Kid's service" Day and engage everyone in activities that we would have in the Kid Zone
3. comment was made that our Children and Youth programs have suffered since we had to remove a paid minister in the position of Youth Minister
4. contact Baptismal families and confirmation youth
5. survey youth and children on the benefit of running mid-week programs
6. have the intentional reunion time before our Christmas eve service for youth to reconnect- invite them to it
7. set up the back of the church in a permanent way to include tables for families to sit at
8. our sign outside should communicate that we offer a Sunday school children's program
9. consider the idea of Sunday school for adults
10. idea of hosting some sort of club (e.g. breakfast club) once a week for any children in the area to welcome them into our space