

May 2, 2021

Summary of the Youth and Parent meeting

1. Jason began the meeting apologizing to the youth and their parents. He emphasized this is not the ending we wanted. He also recognized the tumult of the past few years in the youth ministry program. He ended his opening with a clear statement that SMC cares about each youth and their faith.
2. Jason next asked for questions and comments from the youth regarding the sudden departure of Dimas Pezzato. He shared that he would be as honest and clear as possible. No responses.
3. Jason then asked the same of the parents. No responses.
4. Next, the youth were asked what it is they would like from their youth group experience and what they want the next year to provide? One student shared that it was difficult to have Dimas and Jess leave so suddenly and that she would like stability.
5. The same question was asked of the parents. The parents shared they desired consistency and stability. In this time it was discussed as to what were the best ways to communicate youth group news with the parents.
6. The next step was to share the present plan and options being discerned:
 - a. Jess Gillespie and Jess McQuade are giving 10 additional hours a week to reorganize the Senior High Youth program. This was needed because some basic things were not in place, like a Sunday School curriculum and future events. This plan is in place until at least July 1. Both are willing to extend this arrangement until a more permanent solution is discerned.
 - b. There are 2 options being considered. Jess Gillespie is discerning whether it would be something she would commit to doing. This would mean a readjustment in her present duties. The second option is an organization that places young adults being trained to be youth ministers in your congregation for 3 years with the option to continue when they graduate from the seminary program with a degree in youth ministry.
7. The final portion of the meeting was an opportunity for Jess McQuade and Jess Gillespie to share the plan for the next 3 months.
 - a. Jess McQuade shared that the Sunday School curriculum for the summer is an interactive study of the Mennonite Confession of Faith. Mike and Rhonda Grieser have agreed to join the youth leadership team. She asked the parents about the kinds and length of service trips that would fit their schedules and that now is a good time for parents to be involved with either hosting an evening or suggesting creative ideas. The next outing will be to a clay shooting facility.
 - b. Jess Gillespie shared that the focus verse for the youth group for the next quarter is Acts 2:42. It is a verse that emphasizes dedicating yourself to the basics of the faith. This is a time to relationally reconnect. Bi-monthly meetings will happen at different houses over the summer. The days may change due to schedules but, for now they will be on either Friday or Saturday. They will be viewing the series The Chosen (40-45 minute

- programs showing different events in Christ's ministry) and then having a brief discussion afterwards. The evening would conclude with a time of hanging out together.
- c. With the youth programming in the midst of transition it is an ideal time for parents to get involved and help out in new ways. Some of the ways parent involvement could happen include:
 - Teaching Sunday School
 - Planning or hosting a youth event or outing
 - Providing food for an event
 - Hosting one of The Chosen gatherings in their home
 - Signing up/having their youth sign up for events in a timely manner so that we can plan appropriately and efficiently
 - d. Jess McQuade and Jess Gillespie are working together to plan a service trip, add more members to the leadership team and find ways to stabilize the youth programming with consistency and a focus on relationships.

The meeting ended with the understanding that if any youth or parent had additional questions, to please contact Jess McQuade or Jess Gillespie. As soon as a more permanent solution to the leadership of the youth is in place, we will let you know.

Jess Gillespie, Jason Kuniholm, Jess McQuade