

Faith Formation 6/3/26

Present: Lindsay Harren-Lewis, Nancy Gillombardo, Gordon Landefeld, Kate McFadden, Lisa Nester, Jerry Parker, Katie Wetherbee, Susan Wherley

- Gordon offered an opening prayer
- **Liturgical Library/Prayground**
 - Pioneer already has a Liturgical Library! Lisa got to view it
 - Lisa shared the freebies she got from the conference workshop for us to see
 - Lite Brite, worry stones, drawing sticks, noise-reducing headphones, etc.
 - Card with non-verbal communication cues regarding feelings, basic responses
 - Katie suggested that fidgets could be “branded” with something like “my Fairmount family loves me”
 - We want everyone to feel like this is their church home
 - Suggestion that we have a dirty bin for anything that needs to be sanitized
 - Kate would like this to start a larger conversation about designating permanent sensory spaces in the church, including the loft in the youth room
 - “God did not say ‘let the little children come to me, but only if they have average-to-above average IQs and perfect behavior.’” - Katie, taking a moment to preach the good word and receiving snaps of agreement
 - **MOTION:** Allocate \$500 from FF children’s ministry budget for Prayground and allocate \$1500, to be divided equally between children, youth, and adult budgets, for the Liturgical Library (pending approval of the concept by Session).
 - Proposed by Nancy, seconded by Gordon/Katie (a tie!), passed unanimously
- **Women’s Retreat Recap**
 - Close to 40 women participated in some or all of the day
 - 34 provided feedback
 - 3 rated “fair,” 7 rated “very good,” 24 rated it “excellent”!
 - staff have received many effusive emails expressing gratitude
 - particular appreciation for the chair yoga practitioner and facilitator
 - No financial information yet (whether any of allocated funds were recouped)
 - Date for 2027: Saturday, April 24th
 - Presenter: Kim Langley (poet and spiritual retreat leader)
 - **MOTION:** Hold a women’s retreat on April 24, 2027
 - Proposed by Gordon, seconded by Katie, passed unanimously
- **Year Recap**
 - We ran out of time for this conversation due to the moderator’s poor time management, so had a very brief discussion consisting mainly of ideas for next year and things we wish to see more of in the future
 - Ideas:
 - More Bible study
 - An additional Silent Retreat per year
 - A continuation of spirituality in nature series
 - More racial justice work in coordination with Presbytery
 - More intergenerational Faith Formation
 - Susan shared example of Saul/Paul play from NRPC
- **Next Meeting:** August 5th at 5:30 PM in the Ganson Room
- Kate offered a closing prayer