

Memo

To Executive Council

From John McClure

CC:

Date: March 18, 2024

Re: Executive Council Meeting Age Level Ministry Report

January this year marked a significant shift in our church's organizational structure. As we did this, we gave direct input into five areas: Worship, Discipleship, Outreach/Missions, Age-Level Ministries, and Administration. All areas take time and focus, and we have been moving towards building each of these areas in different ways. Age-level ministry is what I would like to focus on this evening.

When looking at all of the ministries connected to Age Level, there are five key areas that we are focusing on at the moment. All areas now have leadership teams that have and will help to guide each ministry. Those five areas are the Men's Ministry (Men in Action), Women's Ministry, OWLS (Older Wiser Loving Seniors) Ministry, Students' Ministry, and Children's Ministry.

These ministries continue to move forward as we seek new ways to reach people for Christ. They continue to learn from each other and feed off each other's energy. I have seen Men's and Women's ministries see what each is doing and feel inspired to either take part in areas of ministry in our church or create for that ministry's area. I have seen our students become very active in our children's ministry. This includes helping with Sermon Session or helping to host the parent's night out in February.

When looking at all five of our areas of ministry, we saw two areas that we felt were the most important to focus on as we moved into 2024. Those two areas were Students and Children's ministry. The first thing we did (and continue to do) was look at each and assess where we were in these ministries. As we did this, we also set up weekly meetings to create strategies and plans to move forward. Our leadership teams were one of the most significant areas we needed to re engage. As we looked to develop these teams, we wanted people with passion and vision for the ministries in a way that would bring new ideas to the table while helping to

invest in these specific ministries. Both areas have also been meeting with our Discipleship Director every other week to look at the curriculum and a path forward as we look to put a discipleship strategy together from birth to graduation. These areas are essential to our church not only because they are the church's future but because they are the church today. As we have families that continue to visit our church, they are looking to us to help them disciple their children.

Our OWLS Leadership team is looking at ways to create events to invite friends from their communities outside of the walls of our church. They are planning and leading events every other month that will give them a chance to invite people outside of Sunday Mornings to our church. They saw an opportunity to do that with our senior luncheon in December and wanted to replicate that as we move forward. This leadership team is moving forward and reaching out to people to grow their community.

Men's and Women's Ministries continue to amaze me as they work so hard to not only reach the areas of the church that they minister to but also continue to support all areas of our church, whether it is mobilizing groups to help at church-wide events or sharing the love of Christ and our church with people that they meet in the community. Our Men in Action group has become well organized and has created strategies to involve men in fellowship, relationship building, and most importantly, spiritual group. We created several events that were hosted by our Women's Ministry over the past year, and are currently in the process of forming a team that will develop vision and strategies to move us forward. I really can't say enough about both of these teams and their willingness to take on any task and serve others. It is inspiring and I am grateful that I get the chance to be a part of it.

All of these ministries will continue to support their specific areas, but you will also see them interacting in intergenerational ministry. This means that while everyone has their area that they are focusing on, there is a definite desire for each team to interact with each other regardless of age. We see this regularly in our Women's ministry as they have utilized their monthly get-together to connect women of all ages. We know it takes everyone to make First United Methodist Church of Pearland's mission successful: Follow Jesus, Build Real Relationships, Grow in Real Discipleship, and Experience Real Transformation.