

Commission Chairs Team
March 31, 2020
6:15 pm

1. The meeting was held over Zoom. Present: Jeanne Smucker, Brad Yoder, Linda Showalter, Martha Yoder Maust, Tim Ludden, Joyce Troyer, Herb Troyer, Brian Bither, Grace Rhine, Cheryl Martin
2. Discipling Commission
 - a. Met in early March to look at Sunday school for summer and fall.
 - b. Wilma would like to continue her class on Zoom for now.
 - i. Will probably be from 1-2 on Sunday afternoon or Thursday evening.
 - ii. Administration will help set this up.
 - c. Carol is interested in continuing her class on Zoom also and needs to set a time.
 - d. It is thought that the congregation needs more fellowship time, not education right now.
3. Brian
 - a. Is taking over much of the administrative assistant role.
 - b. Anything for the administrative assistant should still be sent to Office.
 - c. Zoom
 - i. Church has an upgraded (paid) account that can have up to 100 in it.
 - ii. Zoom meetings should be scheduled through Brian.
 - iii. If access is needed, contact Brian.
 - iv. If persons are interested in Wilma's class, they should email Office.
4. Community Life Commission
 - a. The proposed Phone Tree is a social link for congregation.
 - i. It has an opt-out for persons not interested.
 - ii. Some people are not interested in social life – have own social groups.
 - iii. Herb will write an announcement for newsletter to give people a chance to opt-out.
 - iv. Will start mid-next week.
 - b. Some Indiana-Michigan Mennonite churches are holding a prayer and sharing group through Zoom.
 - c. We need to try to work out ways to include people who have trouble with computer connections.
 - d. Retreat
 - i. Are thinking about making this a time of debriefing from the social distancing experience.
 - ii. Herb will continue to process and think about questions to ask each other at that time.
 - e. Individual pictures at the church – a new camera is needed to take and update pictures.
5. Worship Commission
 - a. Met in February.
 - b. The question is what to do about Sunday services?
 - c. Brian asked
 - i. Do we mean prayer and sharing with a devotional?
 - ii. What about podcasts?
 - iii. What to do about Easter.

- d. Several people have attended other church's streamed services and found them to be good.
 - e. If something is to be done through Shalom, it needs to be as easy as possible for the planners and participators.
 - f. It seems difficult to **not** meet.
 - i. On line may be a way to connect people who are seeking a church.
 - ii. If we don't meet, some people may drift away – either to other churches or to no place.
 - g. Worship commission will meet next week.
 - h. There is a need to get the hymnals ordered by the May 1st deadline.
 - i. If people want personal copies, their order may be added to the church order for a discount.
 - ii. A note will be placed in the newsletter.
 - i. After much discussion, a consensus was reached to have Wilma's class at 1:00 on Sunday and a Prayer and Sharing service with a meditation at 2:00.
 - j. An email will be sent to let people know.
6. Outreach Commission
- a. Discussed Indiana AID – have agreed to help with this, but have some issues to work out before taking it to the congregation.
 - b. Everence sharing fund was reviewed.
 - c. Caps for Benches
 - i. We have helped 3 other congregations reach their goals.
 - ii. Plan to start "2 Tables for Toddlers" for our church area.
 - d. Zenebe attended the Indiana-Michigan Conference cluster meeting.
7. Administration
- a. Taking an offering is a challenge
 - i. Bob has set up Givelify for donations.
 - ii. It can be set up on the church web page.
 - iii. There is a 2.0% fee for each donation.
 - iv. Will talk to Charles about depositing any checks that come in.
 - b. After April 20, Sam will not get the mail daily.
 - i. Will need to plan for that function.
 - ii. Who is at church on a regular basis to make sure everything is OK?
 - c. Tree pruning
 - i. One tree will be pruned.
 - ii. A second tree will be taken down at a later time.
 - d. Even though Brian is filling in for the administrative assistant now, there is a need to spread the duties out over the congregation.
 - i. Might offer the position to someone in another congregation close by.
 - ii. A list of duties will be put in the newsletter.
 - iii. If a pastoral search candidate wants this position, it will be given to that person.
 - e. Who is responsible for crisis decisions?
 - i. Administration commission will be responsible for weather-related decisions.
 - ii. Other decisions will be made in consultation with the Commission Chairs Team.
8. VAT
- a. Met March 23 over Zoom in emergency meeting related to COVID-19.
 - b. Items discussed there have been discussed here.
 - c. Deacon group

- i. It is temporary for now
- ii. Will need to communicate this to the congregation.
- iii. If it is to continue after this crisis, it will need to be approved by the congregation.
- iv. A job description was written and approved by Sabrina for this current time.
- v. Sabrina has written a proposal for a more permanent group.

9. Spiritual Gifts

- a. Have contacted people who had expressed interest in serving in a deacon capacity.
- b. 9 people have responded with a yes.

Next Meeting – May 5 @ 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Cheryl Martin