

The Commission Chairs met by Zoom at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 7, 2022 for their regular six-week collaboration. Present in addition to Chairperson of VAT Cheryl Martin, were Mike Wigginton, Chair of the Administration, Brittany Bither, Chair of the Worship, Martha Yoder, Chair of Discipling, Herb Troyer, Chair of Community Life, Joyce Troyer, Chair of Gifts Discernment, and Pastors Brian Bither and Craig Oury. Zenebe Abebe, Chair of Outreach submitted a written report. Frank Kandel, Vice-chair of VAT recorded these minutes.

After a time of personal sharing, Pastor Craig led in prayer..."God, we love you...

Brittany reported that Craig is doing the bulletins and others are stepping up to do jobs normally covered by Linda and Jim Showalter. Also, clarity is being sought about who is responsible to take attendance each Sunday. Brittany will explore this further. Also, microphones will be adjusted to better balance amplification of the music leaders. Each Commission will be ask to provide "just a little blurb" about where a newcomer could volunteer—something quick and easy to help them get plugged into the church for the bulletin. The Child Safety Training is being renewed with a training session coming up on May 1 for all who work or wish to work with the children and youth.

Zenebe reported that everything is going well in Outreach. It was determined that the "CAPS for a Bench" project will be on hold until leadership of the endeavor is clarified.

Mike reported that they try to deal with things as they come up. Plans are underway to schedule a Spring Work Day. A new front yard church sign is still being investigated. Still seeking an additional bid on the re-paving of the driveways. Revamping of the website is being explored. Since Iglesia Amigo is no longer using the building, different arrangements are being considered for the building janitorial services.

Martha reported that the Widerstand Racial Audit is in the “writing the report” stage. The information will be shared with a group of church leaders on April 20th after which it will be shared with a joint meeting of VAT and Commission Chairs at which time it will be determined where to go with it from there. Martha advocated opening doors and windows more than we have been accustomed to, to help keep the air moving and reduce likelihood of Covid transmission. There was some question about who should see that the building is locked up after Sunday School and it was agreed that this determination falls to the Administrative Commission.

Joyce reported that she has been pleased with the results of the “determining you gifts” Sunday School Class. Last Sunday they reviewed the church structure, which Joyce said would be beneficial to do for anyone interested on an annual basis.

Herb reported that they are looking into the resumption of coffee time and fellowship meals. Also they are looking ahead to church retreat on October 8th and are looking for volunteers to help plan it—on the theme of “Coming Back Together.” In the Fall a concerted effort will be made to initiate Small Groups.

Craig reported that the pastors are planning a preaching series on the book of Hebrews after Easter.

Brian reported that the CamFell Pastors met this past week. Conference Minister Joanne Gallardo was present and ask if Shalom and First Mennonite would be willing to share at Annual Meeting about their experiences with racial audit.

Cheryl reported that a poll will be coming out soon for congregants to indicate their preferences on the LGBTQIA questions facing our denomination to provide guidance for Delegate Wilma Bailey as she represents us at the May 27-30 MCUSA Denominational Meeting. Also, we hope to be able to do a Congregational Review of our “new” church structure this summer.

Next Meeting: May 12, 6:00 p.m.