

Church Council Minutes
Monday, June 12, 2017

Present: Abri Hochstetler, Bob Love, Brian Bither, Gary Martin, Joann Buerge, Kathryn Bachman, Kristen Metzler-Wilson, Krystal Johnson, Phil Shenk, Rod Maust, Sam Bixler

Rod opened with a reading of Luke 9:51-62

Ministry Reports:

Treasurer—Bob Love

Bob reviewed the Account Balances Report as of 6/12/2017 as well as Budgeted Expenses, Actual Expenses, and Offerings to Budget. Offerings remain ahead of expenses although slightly behind the budget.

Worship—Kristen Metzler-Wilson

Worship services are falling into place. Communion is planned later this month.

Adult Education—Kathryn Bachman

The Health Care focus continues through the summer.

Child and Youth Nurture—Joann Buerge

A series of classes on baptism was held. Currently no youth are scheduled for any Mennonite camps this summer. Several teachers are needed for the summer sessions.

Fellowship—Krystal Johnson

A “no oven” fellowship meal is being planned for July 2. High school and residency graduations may also be celebrated. Websites are being prepared to schedule meals for those who will be delivering newborns this summer.

Outreach/Welcoming—Phil Shenk

Thriving Thursdays will begin this week, a program for youth. Carol Bixler and Brian Bither have canvassed the neighborhood on three afternoons to promote the program. Thursday Bible study will continue as planned.

While canvassing the neighborhood, Carol and Brian also asked about neighborhood safety concerns. Several neighbors have experienced armed robbery. A neighborhood meeting will be held next week, Wednesday, June 21, 3:30, at Shalom to consider what steps might be helpful in addressing the safety issue.

The Mara congregation is in the process of buying their own church building and may be moving to that location this summer. It is hoped that we might have a joint celebratory meal at their new location when they are settled in.

Buildings and Grounds—Sam Bixler

In light of recent safety concerns, Sam presented a proposal to upgrade the four current IPL lights to high pressure sodium bulbs as well as using a six foot extension arm over the parking lot. After these changes are completed, a further lighting assessment will be made (ie are more lights needed). These plans were affirmed. If B & G decides that more lighting would be helpful, they are authorized to move forward with the work.

B & G was also encouraged to explore an alarm system for the building and develop a proposal for the congregation.

Pastor/Elder Team—Abri Hochstetler (Gary left during this discussion and then rejoined us.)

The team has suggested a two month extension to Gary’s current contract to help with the pastoral load this summer and fall while filling in the positions in the new structure. After council discussion, it was decided to request an extension of his contract by three months (until October 31). It is understood that Gary may decrease his time at Shalom if another transitional position becomes available, and Shalom may decrease Gary’s time if other staff are hired as we move forward in our transition. Gary has agreed to be a “Bridge Pastor” during this time, helping with pastoral needs as well as consulting on the transition process.

Transition Process—Gary Martin

Gary did briefly review the Structure Implementation Timeline. No more congregational meetings are planned in the process. Candidates are being recruited for the Vision & Accountability Team. Implementation is moving forward.

Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference—Brian Bither

The Camfell cluster has agreed to host the annual conference, June 21-23, 2018, in Indianapolis. Brian is chairing the Program Planning Team, and Frank Kandel, the Logistics Planning Team. Other congregations in our cluster will also be assisting. Volunteers will be solicited as the planning moves forward.

Next meeting: Monday, August 28, 7pm