

The Commission Chairs met for their regular meeting by Zoom at 6:00 p.m. on March 6, 2023. Present were Zenebe Abebe, Cheryl Martin, Frank Kandel, Martha Yoder, Brian Bither, Brittany Bither, Joyce Troyer, Herb Troyer, and Mike Wigginton.

Cheryl opened the meeting with prayer.

Zenebe was first up. Outreach Commission is planning a meeting next Wednesday. Outreach regularly reports their activities in the Newsletter to keep congregants informed. Martha asked Outreach to consider ways we can continue to be involved in helping homeless families in the aftermath of IHN's (Interfaith Hospitality Network—Family Promise) ending.

Next Brittany reported that Worship Commission is trying to work towards having at least one woman in "up-front" leadership each Sunday. Also, Worship Commission may experiment with different worship emphasis on particular Sundays—for example, one could focus more on praise while another focused more on prayer.

Next Pastor Brian raised the question as to who is responsible for the content on the website. While it was agreed that Administration Commission is responsible to put it there, it would be good to have a subcommittee to think

about and guide what identity we want to portray not only on our website but in our signage and even in our décor and bulletin boards—a cluster of people to monitor and guide our messaging. VAT will take this up at their next meeting.

Brain's second concern was that the Kitchen Crew be given more of a voice. Because our eating together is such an important part of who we are, we decided to periodically invite them to attend Commission Chairs for easier communication and coordination. Cheryl and Herb will follow up and see if at least some of them can attend our next meeting.

Mike reported for Administration that their main recent activity was purchasing a new dishwasher for the kitchen. After it is installed the seller will train kitchen staff who can then train others.

Martha reported for Discipleship that March 19th both caucuses will meet to be followed by a meal together. Also, she raised the question of who is in charge of the displays in the foyer? She would have liked to have the February Black History Month book display upstairs instead of in the basement but she didn't know who to ask? What message do we want to show in our displays as people enter the church? Again this gets back to the idea of having a subcommittee of persons to guide us in being intentional in

the identity we wish to portray. How do we want to be known? What is our public face?

Martha also reported that a Bible Study for adults during the Sunday School hour is underway being led by Herb Troyer, Carol Bither, and Bob Love. She is also beginning to think about people we'd like to hear from this summer.

Joyce reported for Gifts Discernment that Commission have been stable but soon with a number of participants coming upon their six year mark, many will have to step away, for at least a year. The Commission Chairs affirmed this requirement as a way for people to let go and allow others to step up. Joyce also asked us to send in our recommendations for delegate to Conference and MCUSA.

Herb reported for Community Life Commission that Annual Church Retreat will be on September 9th. The Commission will be in conversation with Frank at their upcoming meeting on March 21st about his idea on possible content for the Retreat.

Cheryl reported that VAT has been working to help the Congregation recast her Mission, Vision, and goals. Also in discussion with Pastor Brian about planning for a 2024 sabbatical.

Next Commission Chairs Meeting: April 11, 6:00 p.m.