

230112CommChrsMeet

The Commission Chairs met by Zoom for their regular meeting at 6:00 p.m., on January 12, 2023. Present were Zenebe Abebe, Cheryl Martin, Frank Kandel, Martha Yoder, Brian Bither, Brittany Bither, Herb Troyer, Joyce Troyer, and Mike Wigginton.

Cheryl opened the meeting with prayer asking for God's presence and that we hear one another.

Zenebe reported that the Outreach Commission's next meeting is set for January 18, noting that they did not meet in December. They are working on an announcement intended to introduce new-comers to the work of the Outreach Commission.

Martha reported for the Discipling Commission that several people are working to re-start the POC caucus for our continuing anti-racist conversations. We are going to be taking up study of book entitled *White Fragility*. Martha noted that the monthly anti-racism Sunday School discussion may be the first time some of us have participated in a sustained discussion on the subject. Otherwise Martha noted that one of the responsibilities of the Discipling Commission is to resource the other Commissions as needed and Discipling Commission is open to requests for such.

Joyce reporting for Gifts Discernment plans to shoulder tap those who recently have come in to the church to check out their interest in completing the Gifts Discernment Inventory. As was stated, we can always use more people with gift and passion identified to help carry on the work of the church.

Herb reported that the Community Life Commission will be having its next meeting on January 17th. This coming Sunday, the 3rd Sunday of the month will include a “pitch-in” meal.

Brittany reported for Worship Commission that they are beginning to plan with the Pastors for Lent and any related services we might be holding. With Jim and Linda Showalter leaving for their winter MDS work, their absence is keenly felt. Worship Commission may be holding a special training session, where volunteers can get a taste of the various jobs needed to pull off worship—and see if one might feel like a fit. In the Spring we plan to augment the Sunday Morning Power Point with a new “people in action” section. It was suggested that when extra events are included in worship like communion or baptism that we reduce the number of songs so as not to infringe on the allotted Sunday School time.

Pastor Brian reported that pastors are planning a mini sermon series to help us prepare and enhance our ability to “speak the truth in love” as we face upcoming difficult conversations on subjects like racism, gender identity, and congregational structure. After that, the Pastors hope to start a sermon series on the Book of Mark—a series that was planned when the pandemic hit but never got off the ground.

Mike reported for Administrative Commission that the \$300 grant from the Native Plant Society has been renewed and work will continue on the land-shaping on the northwest corner of the Shalom property. At their next meeting the Commission hopes to consider a proposal for a more functional plain-jane sign to replace the dilapidated one in front.

Cheryl reported that VAT is preparing to lead discussions on congregational structure during the next three Sunday School hours.

An attachment with details was included in this week's Newsletter. Additionally, future congregational discussions will focus on gender identity questions. So, in upcoming months congregational will seek clarity and direction on a) Shalom's Mission, Vision, Goals, b) Revised Church Organizational Structure, c) Revised anti-racist statement, and d) Gender Identity Questions.

Next Meeting: March 6, 6:00 p.m. on Zoom

Notes taken by Frank Kandel