

Commission Chairs Mtg

July 9, 2019

Present: Linda S; Jeanne, Brad, Joyce T, Martha, Linda K, Laura, Brad S., Sabrina

Jeanne opened with prayer

Jeanne opened with general comments. No particular agenda, with new structure communication was primarily via the pastoral team. During sabbatical, pastors won't be meeting with commissions

Goals of these sessions:

1. Commissions can share / communicate activities so we don't have overlap but can be working together and share what each group is doing

2. Share challenges what your commission is facing – get input from other commissions

Linda, worship – grateful for gifted people who do their tasks, people willing to do their stuff. Only 3 of us without Sabrina. Linda is asking to step down due to travel schedule. Meet every 6 weeks or as needed. Services are running late, haven't heard complaints, but SS hour is cut. Hard to control various aspects of the service. Have SS run for 1 hr regardless of SS start time, even if goes past noon Suggestion is ----Worship leader to give more guidelines to when SS will start.. then just go to noon.? There are guidelines but sometimes the spirit leads.... And you go with it.. Continue to work at it... Worship commission is open to feedback. Rarely, spoken announcements are not already printed or on the overhead. Helps if worship leader remind people to read the announcements... WL remind people of carry in meals is good. Power Point things need to be put in ahead of time, not last minute; working on document/policy to give guidelines etc. Sunday morning by 9 am.....

Laura, Admin – new commission, initial time to figure out what we do. Communication processes, 4 teams – treasurer, IT, grounds (most need), building (pretty good system in place). Hard to find people to do grounds, have a list... weed pulling is a large job? Add to Lawn Service contract? Put in the budget to see if it gets more attention and visibility. Brainstormed ideas.... Other tasks seem to be going well. Work load for Admin seems manageable per Laura. Noon on Thursday is the due date for Newsletter and announcements. Looking for someone to learn the treasurer tasks

Martha, Discipling – Over past number of years, used SS hour for business of the Church.... Budget are usually at 12:05; but excludes kids SS teachers if we do 'business' during the SS hours.. Any wisdom as to a better way to manage it? If at noon, some parents would leave with their children and not stay for the special meetings either.....Talked about options to free up teachers to attend church meetings... No clear consensus on what do this summer.. SS hour time does seem to create a good environment for

conversation and to hear church business. Try starting a 2 year old SS class this fall. 5- two year olds ... will need to work on room logistics yet. Carol Bixler will do some of the admin things for children education. Should we have nursery staffed during SS? Use to be staffed, but stopped. Should we start again? 3rd grade Bible issue event was missed, will get 3&4th graders Bibles. Discussed fall adult SS topics. How do we manage the kids, move them up collectively or by age? How do you make these types of decision? An area commission is still trying to discern etc. Discussed options etc. Start 2 years off together in the fall was discussed – make it a special time. Open to on-going advice? Needing more rooms for SS, this is a good thing! How do we structure adult SS – curriculum guideline?? Martha replied we try to have variety, of topics. Use basement stage area as an adult SS area in the fall if space is needed.

Joyce – Spiritual Gifts. Joyce asked “ when do you feel like you have handle on it, transition that is”..... 3 yrs might be a good target based upon other churches going through transition Finding people to be on the commissions – matching people with commissions, working on chairs for commissions? Discussed various commissions and people on them, new people taking on roles, turnover/change be a challenge. Aspect of people volunteering; we must be intentional on hearing where people have passions? Can people volunteer to be on a commission, can you have more than 3 people on the commission? We use people in the commission, but they aren’t ‘on’ the commission? If a commission wants to include more than 3 people, is that OK... Structure evaluation process will hopefully clarify some of the commission details / member numbers or limits etc. How can people plug into a commission and use their gifts? Confusion around serving on the commission vs. serving within the commission and being involved in the work of the commissions. Is there a set number? Discussed various aspects of ‘hiring’ people to do tasks within the church.... How do we capture people’s interest in serving on a commission? What vehicle do we use to capture people’s interest? Do we list somewhere opportunities for people to be involved on a more on-going basis?

Linda K – community life – List of things we are trying to do – small groups, trying to get some more started, doesn’t seem like a lot of people interested. How to capture interest. Newly started – attendance and maintaining membership list with Laura’s help, is reviewed every 3 months... working on a process document for this. Fellowship ministry busy. Discussed the ‘pastoral care aspect’ of this commission? Flowers, meals, need to work with the newly formed Care Team to coordinate work. Jubilee fund used - working with treasurer ... going well... Everence funds used in the past just for Shalom people (matching gift process).. Commission is looking for help with bulletin boards, and take pictures of people who attend – update it. Retreat work in the planning phase, enough money to pay for outside person to present – Nov 2 at Jamison Camp. Should we offer child care for the retreat?? Interviewing new people, anyone interested in helping with the process – Sabrina volunteered . Talked about photo board updating...

Sabrina – forming a care team, help pastors through the sabbatical period. Have a group of 9-10 people have the training. Have people available to visit in case pastors are not available. Exploring the idea of regular attendees having someone on the care team ‘look after’ them – looking at this as a possible

ministry that we might want to investigate. Sabrina and Linda will get together to clarify roles of care team and roles of community life commission. Clarify roles and responsibilities

Brad Y – outreach. Focus on peace and social justice issues, a lot of the work has been done by members of the commission. Hope to recruit more individuals Working on social justice issues. Creation care efforts, east side creation care network looking at Solar project. Welcoming and integrating new people to the congregation.. Clarity needs to happen between outreach and community in this area.

Commission has on going responsibility for relationships between Mennonite agencies. Ministry in Muncie falls to Outreach. The big thing now is the Solar project, will be discussed on July 21st and then two weeks to vote. 85% response positive to move forward. Thriving Thursday, 3rd year, had some challenges this year; will we move forward? Will go ahead this week – then decide if we move forward in subsequent weeks. Why did we choose Thursday, there was a bible study on Thursday so the bible study stopped? Bible study had been going on for 15 years prior to thriving Thursday ...

Jeanne – VAT; talked about sabbatical plans, this type of meeting, solar presentation, pastors also need care.. so a member of VAT will keep in touch with each of the pastors. VAT focused on work getting done while Brian is on sabbatical.

How often should this group get together? Beneficial meeting..... Pastors optional? SGDT may not need to attend Can be a representative of the commissions.

People felt this setting very helpful, and good to help clarify roles and share ideas... Not to duplicate efforts.

Next meeting**6 weeks – August 20th ... 6-7:30 pm**