

## Church Council Minutes

Wednesday, September 02, 2015

Present: Dagne Assefa, Brian Bither, Bob Love, Cheryl Martin, Jim Martin, Jeanne Smucker, Joann Buerge, Kristen Metzler-Wilson, Mike Wigginton, Mil Penner, Sam Bixler, Rod Maust

Rod opened with some assumptions: 1. Our worship and work are one. Our council meeting is a form of worship; thanksgiving, remembering, listening, and pleasing to God as we demonstrate the new Kingdom in action.

2. We come prepared. We have already been listening for God's word, tuning our hearts to God's ways, and ready to share what we have heard and are hearing.

He then read I Cor 13 as a reminder of our working together.

### Ministry Reports:

#### Pastor Elder Team—Cheryl Martin

- Brian Bither and Frank Kandel are currently licensed for ministry. Doug Kaufman (Conference Pastor for Leadership Transitions) has invited the congregation to begin working with Brian and Frank on discerning their call to ordained ministry. For Brian, this will also be the review that was outlined in the Covenant of Understanding from 2013. The council affirmed moving ahead with this process. The elders will lead this process on behalf of the congregation this fall and will have a recommendation before the end of this year. Frank is beginning as transitional pastor at Mennonite Fellowship of Bloomington this month.

#### Adult Education—Jeanne Smucker

- Classes are set for the fall.

#### Buildings and Grounds—Sam Bixler, no new report

#### Child and Youth Ministry—Joann Buerge

- The ministry members include Anne Lehman Shenk, Bethany Martin, Joann Buerge, Natasha Diener and leadership will be shared.
- There will be one teacher/month for the Primary Grades and teachers have been lined up thru Feb.

#### Fellowship—Jim Martin

- September 20—Fall Festival being coordinated with Outreach/Welcoming

#### Outreach/Welcoming—Brian Bither

- Shalom had an information table recently at the University of Indianapolis Campus Life Expo.
- INH will be October 20<sup>th</sup>. An educational update will soon be given to the congregation.

#### Worship—Kristen Metzler-Wilson, no new report

#### Peace Ministry—Mil Penner

- The ministry recommends that the congregation join Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence. It is a free membership and we would then receive mailings and opportunities to participate in community forums as well as get updates on legislation, etc. The council affirmed joining the group.

#### Treasurer—Bob Love

- Bob distributed the current Account Balances report which showed Budgeted spending: \$125,810, Actual spending: \$113,410, and Offering: \$126,076.
- The budget process was reviewed. Budget packets will be provided to Ministry chairs by Oct 4.

Tentative budget will be reviewed at the Nov 4 Council meeting. Congregational approval is scheduled for Dec 6.

#### Service Adventure Support—Cheryl Martin

- Elijah Lederach is participating in the Service Adventure program. The Pastor Elder Team is recommending that \$350 be sent to Mennonite Mission Network from the college fund toward his support. This was affirmed.

#### Creation Care—Mike Wigginton

- Marilyn Teel has agreed to facilitate the group. The group has been part of Eastside Creation Care Network, and Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light events. They are exploring connections with Mennonite Creation Care. They desire to be a subministry of Buildings and Grounds, and will appoint a representative to be a member of Buildings and Grounds. They were encouraged to be a voice of advocacy in the congregation.

#### Peace Church Coalition—Brian Bither

- Has been defining its identity. Their goal is to be a network and mutual support for peace work being done rather than centrally generating peace programs. Quarterly meetings of congregational representatives is proposed. Council encouraged them to also connect with other churches interested in peacemaking and to keep the congregation informed of peace activities. A congregational representative is still needed.

#### Church Wide Connections—the following were affirmed as representatives/connectors

- IN-MI Conference delegate—Kristen Metzler-Wilson
- Mennonite Central Committee—Jeanne Smucker
- Church Women United—Carol Bixler
- Everence—Justin Hochstetler
- Mennonite Women—Barbara Longoria
- Mennonite Church USA—Wilma Bailey
- Mennonite Economic Development Association—Mike Wigginton
- Peace Church Coalition--??
- Mennonite Disaster Service—Jim Showalter

#### Transitional Pastor Search Committee

- IN-MI Conference office suggests that a small subgroup be formed to review applicants and recommend to Council a candidate for approval as transitional pastor. Council affirmed that one member be from the elder team, a second the moderator, and the third, a congregational participant. Names were suggested. Rod will follow up and inform Council when the committee is finalized. It was suggested that the congregation be kept informed of the process.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 7pm if the Transitional Pastor Search Committee has a report to offer.