

**Shalom Mennonite Church
Commission Chair Team
Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2024**

The Commission Chair Team convened on March 4, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. EST via Zoom. Present were Frank Kandel, Pastor Brian Bither, Brittany Bither, Carol Bixler, Linda Showalter, Mike Wiggington, Zenebe Abebe, CoraLyn Turentine, and Nizeet Deiter.

Introduction

Frank opened the meeting by asking the team members what their plans for the eclipse are.

Following the icebreaker, Frank initiated the meeting by discussing the schedule for the next meeting and then requesting updates from the chairs.

Next Meeting

The next Commission Chair Team Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 16th at 6:30 pm EST via Zoom.**

Commission Teams Updates

1. Linda provided an update on behalf of the **Community Life Commission Team.**

The key points were as follows:

- They are currently working on Easter breakfast and an Easter egg hunt.
- No extra activities were done in February.

Carol inquired about the gathering named "Guess Who Is Coming to Dinner," to which Linda responded that they will be working on it.

2. Carol provided an update on behalf of the **Discipling Commission Team.**

The key points were as follows:

- They have a meeting scheduled for this week.
- Two Sunday school classes are being taught regularly, and they are seeking more visual aids for these classes.
- They are exploring the possibility of additional meeting time, following the successful extra meeting held last Tuesday (2.27) led by Wilma Bailey. The possibilities are to have an extra meeting regularly or leave it open as needed.
- The meeting briefly focused on welcoming new members to the church.

3. Zenebe Abebe provided an update on behalf of the **Outreach Commission Team.**

The key points were as follows:

- The team met last week.

- Becky Wiggington is currently working on a grant to improve Dagne Park.
 - They reviewed support for Meseret Kristos Seminary (MKS) and agreed to give recommendations to Shalom members.
 - Pastor Brian gave a detail update on the liberal art program reply that it was given to him by MKS
 - They do not have a liberal program and they do not intend to have one.
 - The recommendation based on their response is to reduce the support from \$8,000 to \$4,000. They could invest it in other programs such as MCC tutoring programs. They are proposing to do the budget reduction gradually.
 - CoraLyn asked if there was an understanding between MKS and Shalom if the liberal art program was not created.
 - Zenebe clarified that process in which they have been working in order for MKS to know what could possibly be happening in the future.
 - They will not be meeting in March.
4. Mike provided an update on behalf of the **Administration Commission Team**.
The key points were as follows:
- Mike clarified the steps of the park grant proposal and mentioned gathering more information on 3/5.
 - A newsletter updating the Arlington neighborhood association is in progress.
 - Jim Showalter will be working on the elevator to fix it. He will also be working on the air conditioner in the youth classroom.
 - They worked on recent issues with the dishwasher.
5. Brittany Bither provided an update on behalf of the **Worship Commission Team**.
The key points were as follows:
- Though they have not convened, their focus is on the Easter Sunday service.
 - Carol expressed enjoyment of the services held in February (Black History Month).
6. Pastor Brian Bither provided an update on behalf of the **Pastoral Team**.
The key points were as follows:
- Pastor Craig is currently on vacation.
 - Annual Sessions will be rebranded as Summer Fest and will be hosted at the Mara Church, with Shalom leading some worship.
7. CoraLyn provided an update on behalf of the **Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team**.
The key points were as follows:

- The team met last week to brainstorm ways to recruit a representative for the Annual Sessions. Two approaches discussed were making announcements during the church service and reaching out to attendees of the People of Color Caucus to gauge interest in participation.
 - Additionally, the team is actively working on recruiting two more deacons.
8. Frank Kandel reported on behalf of the **Vision & Accountability Team**.
The key points were as follows:
- The team is working on three different projects:
 - Pastor Brian's vacation
 - Pastoral evaluation
 - Welcoming Statement incorporating the LGBTQIA+ community.
 - The welcoming statement was presented to the church member last Sunday (3.3) and it will be discussed the next Sunday (3.10)
 - The possibility of sharing it in the newsletter was discussed, with Nizeet highlighting the benefit of inclusivity.

Adjournment

Mike closed the meeting with a prayer, and Frank adjourned it at 7:20 pm EST.

Recorded by Nizeet Deiter