

Commission Chairs Team

September 1, 2020

6:00 pm

1. Opening prayer – Brian Bither
2. Discipling Commission – Martha Yoder Maust
 - a. Brad Yoder and Kristen Metzler Wilson will start a Sunday school class on Sept 13 – a book study about masculinity and the Christian life.
 - b. There will be no second class but will have fellowship time instead.
 - c. A book study about the female perspective may be planned for the future.
 - d. There will be a baptism exploration class – will meet on Saturdays.
 - e. Barbara Abebe will be the Children’s coordinator.
3. Outreach Commission – Brad Yoder
 - a. Indiana AID – is moving forward.
 - b. Caps for the picnic table are on hold for the moment as the company had a fire. Will continue to collect caps.
 - c. Eastside Creation continues to meet.
 - d. COOL congregation application:
 - i. Requires a year of data.
 - ii. Will collect data.
 - iii. Will apply next year.
 - e. Family Promise:
 - i. Annual fundraiser is virtual this year.
 - ii. Contributions can be made through First Mennonite Church.
 - iii. We will help with housewares for one of the apartments.
 - f. The commission members were asked to reflect on the goals and mission of the commission.
 - i. Peace and social justice.
 - ii. Evangelism:
 1. There is no program for this.
 2. No one has expressed interest in adding a program for this.
 3. This may be something we need to look into.
 4. Are we uncomfortable dealing with evangelism?
 5. Several members may be interested.
 6. Fall festival and Thriving Thursdays are a form of evangelism.
4. Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team – Joyce Troyer
 - a. New Chairs/members to commissions have been announced in the newsletter.
5. Indiana AID – Brian Bither
 - a. An email address has been set up and a Facebook page is being set up.
 - b. These will not be published until someone is identified to respond to these.
 - c. The Google phone number requires a backup number.
 - d. Shalom phone number will be that backup.
 - e. Networking has begun.
6. Church Life Commission – Herb Troyer
 - a. The retreat:
 - i. Scheduled for October 3.
 - ii. Working to make a decision on whether to cancel.

- iii. After discussion with CCT, it was decided to cancel the retreat.
 - iv. A social time may be scheduled at the church on that date or another date for those who feel comfortable attending.
 - b. Fall Festival:
 - i. Planned for last Sunday in October?
 - ii. Difficult to do in a safe way.
 - iii. Plan to cancel event.
- 7. Administrative Commission – Mike Wigginton
 - a. Since this was his first day as chair, he had limited information.
 - b. The tree was taken down at the church and the company paid.
 - c. Sam is working on getting the lift repaired and working again.
 - d. A new computer has been purchased for the audio system and Zoom services.
- 8. Worship Commission – Linda Showalter
 - a. A communion service is being planned for September 13.
 - b. Having people turn off their videos during the children’s time seems to be working well.
- 9. VAT – Jeanne Smucker
 - a. A discussion about the structure revisions was held.
 - b. More work continues.
- 10. Gathering Safely – Martha Yoder Maust
 - a. Lower than 5 deaths per day is not a good indicator to use.
 - b. The positivity rate is also less than helpful.
 - c. Are looking at the number of cases in central – new cases per day per 100,000 population.
 - d. At the end of June/first of July – below 7.
 - e. In August – 17.3 with a currently accelerating spread.
 - f. The recommendation is to continue with virtual services for now.
 - g. First Mennonite Church is experimenting with two outside services in September.
 - h. Outdoor worship is logistically difficult – especially since we would still need virtual services.
 - i. Some churches have very detailed requirements.
 - j. Our sanctuary has poor cross ventilation – can’t remove aerosols.
 - k. Encourage more interactions on Zoom.
 - l. A discussion was held about possible options for social time at church outside.
 - m. We will continue to report in the newsletter periodic updates.
 - n. Maybe recommend having Deacons visit “shut ins” in person.
 - o. This group will continue to make decisions about meeting on a monthly basis based on the numbers.
- 11. Next meeting – October 20

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Martin, secretary