

2025-11-10 Commission Chairs Minutes

Meeting Details

Date: November 10, 2025

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Location: Zoom

Present: Craig Oury (Pastor), Brian Bither (Pastor, represented the Outreach Commission), Nizeet Deiter (VAT Chair), Jim Showalter (SGDC Chair), Linda Showalter (Community Life Chair), Melissa Walsh (Worship Chair), Cheryl Martin (Discipling Chair), Mike Wiggington (Admin Chair), Andrew Martin (Secretary)

Opening

Nizeet Deiter opened the meeting with a scripture reading and an icebreaker activity.

Next meeting scheduled for January 12, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Pastor Craig opened the meeting in prayer, asking for guidance and discernment.

Budget Discussion

Treasurer Bob Love took over meeting at 7:05

-Background of previous years historical offerings. 2025 follows a similar trend of previous years with roughly 20 thousand overspend by October 31 when compared to offerings to that point.

-Discussion question: How much our spending proposal should be affected by recent historical data about annual offerings? Bob Love asks for discussion on the following question: Is it okay to budget more money than we are getting at a time? Trust that God will provide vs. be grateful for what God has given?

-There will be a Sunday School scheduled on the subject of tithing.

-Historically requests for funds have been met. (End of year gifts tend to be a major portion of non-profits) But last year, there was a 20k increase in last two months.

-Some suggestions from the group included: encouraging more 'regular' giving rather than big contributions more often; front-loading at the beginning of the year.

Budget Discussion of each commission:

Outreach

-First Fruits: generally, small increases. The exception is in an increase in congregational support for Peter and Delicia Wiggington Bravo, which was recommended by members of the congregation who serve a support function.

-Meserete Kristos will be receiving the same as AMBS.

-A discussion of individual giving to organizations vs the institutional budget to external organizations took place

-Adding Mennonite Action support

-Discussion was had regarding a reparation/racial justice budget line of \$2000. The conclusion of the group was to not add to the 2026 budget in order to provide the Dismantling Racism Steering Committee more time to discern with the congregation about how to proceed collectively. If a conclusion is reached in 2026, a special offering would be appropriate to raise funds for a collective contribution.

Discipling

-2026 budget is lower because this is not a convention year, and the small number of kids involved in camps. No current junior youth. Support for High School is available should an appropriate activity be proposed.

Administration

-New budget line for a parking lot fund that will be contributed to in non-convention years. Separate fund to accept additional contributions. The money will be invested through Shalom's Everence accounts until needed.

-Most of admin is bills that don't have many options. Some things come out of building fund.

-Need for a new snow clearing service, which makes a precise budget prediction difficult.

-Proposed "flower bed maintenance" budget

-Decrease in payroll expenses

Worship

-Honorarium does not need changed because visiting speakers will be paid through the Co-Pastor budget line.

-Other budget lines continued from previous years

Community Life

-Retreat is the primary expense. Rental is a fixed cost.

-Inflation increases for kitchen consumables

VAT

-Anonymous donation to sabbatical fund this year – \$17,630 is in the fund now.

-Bob Love proposed a regular donation of \$2,500 from the general budget in non conference years to fund until it is topped up

-As there are many unknowns in 2026, sabbatical funds and a budgeted 'second pastor' are available to fund Pastor Craig's sabbatical coverage.

-Health Insurance – up 25% and coinsurance contributions are new.

Closing Prayer

Bob Love closed the meeting in prayer at 8:17

Meetings adjourned at 8:20