

Church Council Minutes
Wednesday, November 2, 2016

Present: Abri Houser, Bob Love, Brian Bither, Joann Buerge, Kristen Metzler-Wilson, Krystal Johnson, Marilynn Teel, Rod Maust, Sam Bixler, Mary Albrecht (part time)

Rod opened with the reading of the hymn, "Great is thy faithfulness".

Disability Advocacy Team—Mary Albrecht

Following a sermon earlier this year which noted the possibility of a Disability Advocacy Team, Mary Albrecht and Joyce Troyer expressed interest in exploring this. They are proposing that Shalom join the Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADNet) which will provide additional congregational resources as we are mindful of persons of all types of abilities and disabilities. A \$500 voluntary yearly membership fee is encouraged. Council affirmed this proposal and it will be presented for congregational action at the next business meeting, December 5, 2016.

Mary further suggested that this team be under the Welcoming/Outreach Ministry, which was also supported. They will be developing a church-wide policy if the congregation approves moving forward. They will also work at educational items which will promote better understanding and inclusiveness.

Budget Discussion—Bob Love

Bob prepared a tentative budget after receiving feedback from the ministries. This was reviewed and suggestions/changes were offered. There is some uncertainty in the Pastor budget because the transition process ending/calling a new pastor will be occurring sometime this next year. Bob will prepare the final budget for the congregational meeting on December 5, 2016.

Ministry Reports:

Child and Youth Ministry—Joann Buerge

The church Safety Policy training was offered on September 18, 2016. Those who signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) have been checked against the Indiana Sex and Violent Offender Registry. These MOU will be kept in a locked cabinet in Brian's office. (Cheryl Martin has completed the screening process for Shalom employees {Brian and Gary} and has volunteered to do this for future employees. These documents will also be kept in a locked cabinet in Brian's office.)

Fellowship—Krystal Johnson

The Christmas Dinner will be held December 17, 2016. A number of other fellowship events are on the church calendar and will be publicized as their time approaches.

Building and Grounds—Sam Bixler

A workday is planned for Saturday, November 19. The Mara Christian Church will also be participating.

Creation Care—Marilynn Teel

Marilynn gave an update on the exploration of solar panels for Shalom. They are trying to get updated quotes now that the roof reshingling has been completed. It was suggested that a proposal be developed for the congregation to review and act on. It has been some time since the last educational meeting on solar power was held and education will need to be part of the proposal presentation.

Shalom is part of the IN Urban Forest Council and last month received several more trees for the property.

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 (thru Orlando '17)

Mennonite Economic Development Association—Mike Wigginton

Mennonite Disaster Service—Jim Showalter

Website—Brian Bither

Several suggestions were given for Shalom's website. Because of the personal nature of some bulletin items, the bulletin will be moved to the Member's only page.

Upcoming Events :

Frank Kandel ordination—January 29, 4pm

Church Retreat 2017—October 14, 2017

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 4, 2017, 7pm