

Church Council Minutes
Monday, August 28, 2017

Present: Abri Hochstetler, Bob Love, Brian Bither, Gary Martin, Joann Buerge, Kristen Metzler-Wilson, Krystal Johnson, Phil Shenk, Rod Maust, Sam Bixler

Rod opened with a reading of I Peter 2:4-10

Ministry Reports:

Treasurer—Bob Love

Bob reviewed the Account Balances Report, Budgeted Expenses, Actual Expenses, and Offerings to Budget as of 8/28/17. Offerings remain ahead of expenses but slightly behind the budget. The Mennonite College Fund has sufficient funds for this school year.

The question was raised about the budget process this year in the midst of structural reorganization. Current ministries will be asked to offer a tentative budget for 2018 and these suggestions will be passed on to the appropriate new commissions when they are formed.

Worship—Kristen Metzler-Wilson

Emily Fox will be leaving the ministry because of her seminary internship at Linwood Christian Church this school year.

An effort is being made to include Spanish in parts of the service.

Adult Education—written report from Martha Yoder Maust

Sometime in September a class hour will be presented by Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence. Two classes are planned for the fall--a sermon discussion class, and a Bible study from MennoMedia on the covenant theme.

Child and Youth Nurture—Joann Buerge

Because of the increased number of children attending Shalom, more classes are being offered. They are looking for teachers to lead Sunday School classes.

Fellowship—Krystal Johnson

There may be a Pizza For Peace Sunday sometime this fall.

There have been a number of meals provided to those with new babies, surgeries, and other limitations. This ministry was affirmed despite the logistical difficulties that are sometimes involved.

The church-wide interest in special events, eg game night, is not always clear as the ministry decides where to devote its energy.

Outreach/Welcoming—Phil Shenk

Thriving Thursdays was a positive experience with 15-22 kids each week and around 30 Shalom members assisting over the month. It is hoped that this might be offered again next year.

A Fall Festival is being planned for September 17. Staffing for Family Promise is being scheduled for September 19. Brian hopes to have some conversation with the Mara leadership to see if they have any interest in also participating.

An initial neighborhood meeting was held in July and ideas were offered for future direction. Someone from the Mayor's office may be invited to speak with the group about neighborhood issues.

Buildings and Grounds—Sam Bixler

The outside lights have been upgraded to high pressure sodium bulbs and an extension arm has been added over the parking lot area. Someone is looking into an alarm system proposal although questions have been raised about the logistics of using such a system.

The heating system is being upgraded but won't be completed until the end of September.

Creation Care—written report from Marilyn Teel

Eastside Creation Care network meeting will be September 9 at Cumberland Baptist Church. Their fall film series will begin September 15 at Shalom.

Two damaged trees near the playground will be replaced this fall. It is hoped that a short educational time about the care and respect of trees can be included to prevent future damage.

Solar panels remain an agenda item.

Pastor/Elder Team—Abri Hochstetler

The PET hopes to have clearer objectives for use of the Jubilee Fund. The small group process during this transition/restructuring time is being evaluated. Brian hopes to be on paternity leave for 2-3 weeks in September. A baptism is being planned for this fall.

Some time was spent discussing the difficulty at times of getting volunteers to fill various church ministries. Have we over-extended ourselves? Are we investing in things that aren't really congregational priorities? Should some ministries come to an end? Will the new gifts/passion process be more energizing and life-giving?

Transition Process—Gary Martin

Gary distributed/reviewed a Revised Structural Implementation Timeline. The Vision & Accountability Team, as well as the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team should soon be in place. Work will then begin on the commissions' positions/leadership as well as the Pastoral Team Search Committee members. It was suggested that a chart be created showing the structure, members called, and objectives of each part. It was also noted that the acronyms are sometimes confusing and may need to be simplified.

(Next meeting: Monday, October 30, 7pm, if necessary)