

On June 30, 2022 the Commission Chairs met at 6:00 p.m. by Zoom for their regular meeting. Present were Mike Wigginton, Joyce Troyer, Pastor Brian Bither, Brittany Bither, Pastor Craig Oury, VAT Chair Cheryl Martin, Zenebe Abebe, Martha Yoder Maust, and Frank Kandel.

Craig opened the meeting with prayer.

Martha reported from the Discipleship Commission that Wilma Bailey will be leading three adult Sunday School Sessions on the music of the Hebrews.

Martha asked Commission Chairs to be giving thought to what falls into their area of responsibility from the racial audit report and recommendations. The racial caucus groups will continue to meet on a monthly basis to carry on the dialogue. This summer it will continue on the third Sunday each month but in the Fall it will be switched to the second as Fellowship Meals will take place on the third. An oversight group will be formed to keep moving us forward in our work to become a more anti-racist congregation. This endeavor is to be an on-going permanent part of our congregational agenda.

Zenebe reported on Outreach Commission's continued involvement with the Arlington Woods Neighborhood Association. At a meeting recently attended by Zenebe and Becky Wigginton, it was learned that AWWNA is applying for a large Community Revitalization Grant of which they are feeling some optimism. The Outreach Commission requested and received some clarification about their response to the Anti-racist report. Also, we were reminded of the upcoming Grand Opening

of the New Rock Youth Center On Saturday July 23 from 4-6 PM. Stay tuned for more details on all of these matters. Brian reported that Indiana AID is active and appreciates the recent infusion of funding from folks at Shalom.

Cheryl reported that VAT intends to undertake the recommended anti-racism recommendations having to do with developing a policy on how to report and respond to cases of racial discrimination within our congregation along the lines of policies we have developed to handle child sexual abuse. Cheryl also said congregational discussions will be upcoming on the LGBTQ questions raised at the recent delegate meeting of MCUSA in Kansas City that Wilma Bailey attended and has reported on.

Brittany reported for the Worship Commission that we will be resuming communion and we discussed the best way to do it in light of the continuing spread of the covid virus. Work continues on tweaking what is to be included in the weekly church bulletin.

Pastor Brian shared that he and Pastor Craig are planning to start a sermon series on the book of Amos. Perhaps a Sunday School Class study could go along with that. Also, Brian would like to offer an orientation class for new participants. We discussed a time-line for handling the issues we face as a congregation and the consensus was VAT could work with the Congregation on renewing our Mission, Vision and Goals in October-November and then picking up Advent December into January and then in late January early February picking up the LGBTQ questions. It was suggested that as we consider renewing our mission vision and goals that we also consider how we want to tweak our church structure going forward.

Mike reported on the Administration Commissions recent work of chipping and mulching. Also, Becky is moving ahead with the organization of the sorting of the CAPS for Green Tree Plastics. The Commission is asking that collection for Shalom be stopped. They will suggest other organizations that might be wanting them. The question was raised about the possibility of constructing a picnic pavilion in our park. The Commission continues to work with Igesia Amigos on providing janitorial services at Shalom. They are tweaking the way janitorial supplies are ordered. Craig reported that the re-configured web site is about ready to go. They need some new pictures to upload. Joyce reported that Gifts Discernment is in the middle of the asking process for new commission members of Community Life and Discipling. Also, process is underway to enable congregation to select new representative to VAT.

Craig reported for the Community Life Commission in Herb's absence. There is a need to keep all congregational events on a centralized calendar. Items need to be forwarded to Craig so he can post them on the calendar on the website. We were also reminded to get our Commission Meeting dates to Craig ahead of time so they can be announced in the Newsletter and interested congregants can get involved if they wish to. A discussion ensued as to who decides if an outside group wants to use our facility? Who does an outsider contact? Who makes the decision—Administration or Community Life? Wilma, Herb, and Craig are planning the Fall Church Retreat for October 8th. The intent is for us to Celebrate our Life Together after the 2 year covid-imposed hiatus.

Next Meeting: August 17th, 6:00 p.m.