

Commission Chairs Council  
February 25, 2020  
6:00 pm

Present: Jeanne Smucker, Brad Yoder, Grace Rhine, Sam Bixler, Herb Troyer, Brian Bither, Cheryl Martin

1. Opening prayer by Jeanne
2. Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team
  - a. Cheryl read the report from Joyce.
  - b. Have not had a meeting since the last CCC meeting.
  - c. The Sunday school class on Spiritual Gifts has gone well with 10 participants.
  - d. An additional 4 forms have been obtained from congregants. That will add 14 more people to the database.
  - e. Two individuals contacted about their information for the database responded their intent to not be included. Their reasons were varied and the committee responded with thanks for their input into the process.
  - f. The next meeting is scheduled for March 4.
3. Discipling Commission
  - a. Report was provided by Brian.
  - b. New classes starting March 1:
    - i. Wilma Bailey will teach on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings.
    - ii. Carol Bither will teach on The DNA of Relationships by Gary Smalley.
  - c. There are 2 individuals exploring baptism. Brian is working with them.
  - d. A plan is in place for the next 14 months for preaching through the Bible story. There may be several Sunday school classes relating to this plan.
  - e. Discussion is being held to have the children gather before they go to their classrooms for a short time of singing and other input. There is still some question about how this will work.
4. Pastoral Team
  - a. Brian is the team at the moment and is conducting the routine matters.
  - b. A wedding took place on February 22.
  - c. An Ash Wednesday service is planned.
  - d. Indiana Assistants to Immigrants in Detention (Indiana AID):
    - i. Brian is involved in this initiative.
    - ii. Things are starting to move quickly and a meeting is scheduled for Thursday with previously detained persons to learn more.
    - iii. A plan is being made that may include a support group.
    - iv. A stake-holders meeting is planned to try to start visiting inmates.
    - v. They are trying to connect the group with a not-for-profit group and may ask Shalom to be that partner.
    - vi. They are working to get names and ID numbers so visiting undocumented persons can be arranged.
5. Church Life Commission
  - a. Herb gave the report.
  - b. They are working to help one individual with financial issues.
  - c. A sharing grant was received from Everence to help an individual with bills.
  - d. The Jubilee Fund needs some funds and a message will be shared with the congregation.
  - e. Planning has begun for the fall retreat.

- f. A draft of the cards regarding expectations for children during worship has been sent to the parent's group to get their response and input.
  - g. The calendar for monthly congregational carry-in dinners has been finalized.
6. Administrative Commission
- a. Sam gave the report.
  - b. They are taking care of routine items.
  - c. A paid version of Drop Box and Microsoft Office has been budgeted for.
  - d. The Lift has been fixed.
  - e. Laura has cut her hours as administrative assistant. Duties have been parceled out to others persons.
  - f. There are several diseased/hollow trees that will be removed.
  - g. They are starting to make long-range plans.
7. Worship Commission
- a. Grace reported.
  - b. Emily has planned an Ash Wednesday service.
  - c. Brian has identified plans for the next several weeks.
  - d. The Youth are planning the service for March 22 and are excited about this.
  - e. A service is being planned for either Maundy Thursday or Good Friday.
  - f. A discussion is ongoing regarding children and communion.
    - i. Theological bases for different options.
    - ii. Working with Discipling on this.
  - g. Guidelines are being formulated regarding Mennonite agencies that want to come and present.
    - i. What type of service – Sunday school, worship, evening, etc.
    - ii. Should not be an infomercial.
  - h. There are some problems with finding people to provide the visual in the front of the church.
  - i. The new hymnals are coming in the spring. Persons who may want to purchase these for personal use may put the order with the church order for a savings.
  - j. The group is revisiting whether to purchase the electronic files for hymns.
  - k. The Joys and Concerns section in the bulletin has been changed to Community Sharing and Prayer.
  - l. It has been noted that black clings have been placed on faces on the stained glass window:
    - i. No one knows who put them there and it was not discussed with anyone.
    - ii. There are some feelings regarding this.
    - iii. Grace and Brian will follow up.
8. Outreach Commission
- a. Brad reported.
  - b. There is a need to have a discussion regarding children and communion.
    - i. Children are considered part of the community of Christ until they reach the age to decide whether to be baptized or not.
    - ii. Parents need to talk to the children about participation and the meaning.
    - iii. In one church, a pastor gave each child a large pretzel and a blessing.
    - iv. Communion is often seen as a reaffirmation of the baptismal commitment.
      - 1. Can children make that commitment?
      - 2. We don't see the need to baptize infants.
    - v. Need to make this a church-wide discussion.

- c. People from church agencies need to contact us long in advance of when they want to come.
    - i. Can be educational regarding relationships with various agencies.
    - ii. Encourage guidelines for their participation.
  - d. This commission supports Brian's efforts regarding Indiana AID.
  - e. The support for the Quito church is appreciated.
  - f. There appears to be more collaboration among Mennonite agencies.
  - g. Zenebe is reaching out to the Morning Start church.
  - h. Environmental issues – solar panels are showing a savings in December, not much in January since the sun didn't shine very much.
  - i. Social Justice:
    - i. Interfaith Coalition for Mental Health.
    - ii. Center for Interfaith Cooperation.
    - iii. Hosiers Concerned about Gun Violence.
9. VAT
- a. Jeanne reported.
  - b. The group continues to explore and define the role in relation to the congregation and commissions.
  - c. Questions:
    - i. Where and how are decisions made?
    - ii. Is it decentralized?
    - iii. How big are decisions that require congregational discernment?
    - iv. How Commission decisions become owned by the congregation?
  - d. Brian wants to give more decision-making to Commissions to avoid duplication between VAT and commissions.
  - e. Pastoral search committee:
    - i. Multiple ads were sent to publications and agencies.
    - ii. Continue to work with Sharon at the Conference office.
  - f. The question regarding membership was delegated to the Discipling Commission.
10. Next meeting – March 31, 2020

Respectfully submitted:  
Cheryl Martin