

Church Council Minutes  
Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Present: Abri Houser (with Calvin), Bob Love, Emily Fox, Gary Martin, Joann Buerge, Kathryn Bachman, Krystal Johnson, Marilynn Teel, Martha Yoder Maust, Phil Shenk, Rod Maust, Sam Bixler

Rod opened with a reading of Psalm 95.

Structural Evaluation Task Group—Martha/Sam

Martha reviewed the work the task group (Brad Sommer, Cheryl Martin, Gary Martin, Martha Yoder Maust, Sam Bixler, Thad Wilson) has done thus far. They have developed a list of desired structure characteristics. They have “graded” our current structure and sought feedback from a focus group on the current structure. They are looking at other congregational models and seeking input from congregations about those models. They then hope to recommend a proposed direction for Shalom. They will present their initial work to the congregation on March 26.

Ministry Reports:

Treasurer—Bob Love

Bob reviewed the Account Balances Report as of 3/21/2017 as well as Budgeted Expenses, Actual Expenses, and Offerings to Budget. The financial picture is stable and looks similar to past years.

Worship—Emily Fox

A Maundy Thursday service is being planned. It was suggested that the Easter service begin at 10am to facilitate clean-up. This was affirmed by the council. Creation Care would like to highlight Earth Day during the April 23 service.

Buildings and Grounds—Sam Bixler

They are assessing the exterior lighting situation after the recent armed robbery. They will bring a proposal to council after they have reviewed the options.

Outreach/Welcoming—Phil Shenk

The group hopes to increase our engagement with youth in the neighborhood. They hope to have a weekly, two hour program starting on June 15<sup>th</sup>. This will run for four weeks. Both Shalom and neighborhood children are invited. There will be game time, spiritual input time, and refreshments.

The ministry is still engaged with IndyCAN. Frank Kandel has been appointed as Shalom’s liaison. No decision has been made about formal membership.

Child and Youth Nurture—Joann Buerge

They are having some difficulty recruiting Sunday School teachers for the primary age class. Folks are encouraged to consider this ministry.

The question has been raised about Shalom's camping guidelines, ie is registration only available for Mennonite camps. Council affirmed only paying registration to camps who are members of the Mennonite Camping Association.

It was suggested the ministry might want to consider a mentoring program again.

Fellowship—Krystal Johnson

Planning an Easter breakfast on April 16, 8:30am. While having sign-up sheets for food, there will also be a sign-up sheet for clean-up.

There was some discussion about ways to engage the congregation in various projects, eg care packages.

Creation Care—Marilynn Teel

The group has put solar panels on hold and is working on political advocacy in light of current issues before the state legislature. Several members will be staffing the Eastside Creation Care booth at Earth Day festivities on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Shalom will be hosting the Eastside Creation Care program on May 13.

Adult Education—Kathryn Bachman

A health care series is planned for the summer sessions. May 14 will be used to review the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference revisioning document. May 21 will be used for transition work. There will be no SS classes on May 28 (Memorial Day weekend).

Pastor/Elder Team—Abri Houser

The team has suggested a two month extension to Gary's contract in order to adequately complete the transition process. After council discussion, it was decided to request an extension of his contract by three months (until July 31). This may be reviewed again if necessary.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 19, 7pm.

Most of the meeting will be devoted to reviewing the Structural Evaluation Task Group's recommendations. Other interested members of the congregation will also be invited.