

## Meeting of commission chairs

November 15, 2019

Present: Sam Bixler, Linda Kandel, Martha Yoder-Maust, Linda Showalter, Cheryl Martin, Joyce Troyer, Brad Yoder, Sabrina Falls, Jeanne Smucker

1. The question of whether a pastor should continue to be on each commission:  
Structure evaluation task force is recommending that the commission chair group should be at the center of the “flower”. Discipling, Outreach, Administration, Worship, and Spiritual Gifts expressed a desire to have a pastor back on their commission. Community Life would like to have a pastor at every other meeting. The group would like to have Brian go ahead and contact the commission chairs he has worked with in the past. Worship acknowledged that the pastor is not there to “work” but to be a supporting liaison.

Commissions were asked to include short summaries of their meetings in the Newsletter, with link to the website when they meet.

2. Discipling and Outreach asked VAT for congregational discussion of LGBTQ issues and of becoming a Welcoming and Affirming Congregation. This will be included in the next VAT agenda.
3. Worship  
John Amstutz has agreed to serve for one year. Commission would like an addition member. Advent starts December 1.  
Jim Martin is working on making gluten-free bread for communion.  
A new hymnal is scheduled to be released next year. Commission was advised to put new hymnals in next year’s budget with an explanatory note. A note in the Newsletter will include a link to information about the new hymnal.  
It has been noted that there is sometimes distraction/noise after the prelude begins our worship service. Worship Commission will ask the congregation to enter the sanctuary in a worship manner.
4. Discipling  
December theme will be needy children – those in foster care, Child Advocates and immigration  
January will offer a gift discernment class for those who have not yet participated in the process.
5. Community Life  
Currently reviewing attendance every three months  
Retreat planning – they are not sure about childcare needs; will try to contact parents of children to see if they plan to attend. Group discussed the possibility of alternating the retreat between fall and spring in the future.  
The Christmas banquet is planned for December 14. Krystal will be coordinating food. They are working on a group to handle decorations and plan the program.

6. Co-pastor reported that there has been no need to call on the pastoral visitation group.
7. Administration

The church is moving toward paying to have things done that members have traditionally done, such as weeding flower beds.

Commissions are requested to get minutes to Laura so that they can go on the website.

A new light has been placed on the north parking lot.

They are budgeting for a web site overhaul

The sign in the front of the church needs to be replaced.
8. Outreach

Meet monthly.

Lots of the budget items are for Mennonite agencies.

Recommend increasing giving to Wigginton support and to the Morning Star Church.

Hoosiers Concerned about Gun Violence has their annual dinner October 23.

Community forum on Health Care will be held on October 19.

Commission will be planning the caroling before the Christmas dinner.
9. Spiritual Gifts Discernment

Question raised about training for members. Annual training appears to be included in the structure documents but is not in their budget.

They have decided to start “shoulder tapping” people who are not in the data base. 38 people have now completed the survey.
10. Vision and Accountability

With the new members, new contact people have been assigned to commissions. Two are spouses of commission chairs. Discussion regarding whether this actually facilitates communication and VAT support of the commission. Commissions also asked what VAT needs from commissions.
11. Next meeting – January 7, 2020