

The Commission Chairs met for their regular meeting by Zoom on April 11, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Present were Cheryl Martin, Jim Martin, Brittany Bither, Brian Bither, Craig Oury, Martha Yoder, Joyce Troyer, Herb Troyer, Mike Wigginton, Becky Wigginton, and Frank Kandel. Zenebe Abebe was absent but submitted a report.

Pastor Craig led in an opening prayer.

Since representatives of the Kitchen Committee were present, each Commission shared about any upcoming activities that might involve use of the kitchen or impact the Kitchen Committee.

- Martha liked the way it worked last time when a fellowship meal followed the Sunday School meetings anti-racism caucuses. That may be used as a model for future sessions
- Brian reported that when the parents of pre-schoolers meet it is not uncommon them to use bowls and glasses from the kitchen. The Kitchen Committee representatives indicated it is always helpful for them to know when a group is using the kitchen—perhaps Craig and Becky could be notified at the same time—

Craig to put it on the on-line master calendar and Becky as the representative of the Kitchen Committee.

- Becky indicated that the Kitchen Committee would like to give an orientation to anyone planning to use the kitchen, especially the operation of the new dish washer.
- Brian mentioned that though not planned, there will probably be a group from church using the kitchen on Thanksgiving.
- Jim Martin reported for the Kitchen Committee that the Christmas Banquet is scheduled for December 16th. The Food is the responsibility of the Kitchen Committee but not the program.
- If you think you're going to use the Kitchen, get it on the master on-line calendar and notify Craig and Becky and include the name of the contact person in-charge.
- Brian said that CAMFELL regularly uses the Fellowship Hall and may at times involve the kitchen.
- If you need the help of the Kitchen Committee when you use the Kitchen please let Becky know ahead of time.
- We all need to become more diligent in utilizing the on-line master calendar
- Brittany reported that Worship Commission uses the Kitchen some on communion Sundays.

- The Kitchen Committee always likes to be informed even if they are not required to be there.
- Brittany reported that this year Christmas eve fall on Sunday and there is a possibility something will be planned involving the kitchen.
- Herb reported for Community Life that there is often a Fellowship Meal on the 3rd Sunday but that is left to the discretion of the Kitchen Committee.

Martha agreed to prepare an announcement to communicate to the Congregation the importance of always getting kitchen use plans on the master-on-line calendar.

Zenebe reported that on April 12 the Outreach Commission will be meeting with the new Ex. Director of Family Promise (IHN) to learn about the new vision and plans of the organization.

Brittany reported for Worship that they are allowing more flexibility on times of communion to fit into the pastors preaching plans. She also reported that the Nursery Moms are in the process of re-arranging the nursery and they also received the blessing of the Commission Chairs to go ahead and redecorate and notify Mike from Administration if they need some help or finance. The question was raised, "Do we need to staff the nursery?" and it was determined "not at this time."

Martha reported for Discipling that the caucuses will continue on the 3rd Sunday of each month with various things in between still being planned for the summer. There may be a random “learn to do it” Sunday School hour, giving additional people opportunity and training to help “pull off” Sunday Morning worship. Laura Harms is working on plans for the children’s SS for the summer.

Martha raised the question again about who not only decorates the foyer but helps orchestrate the “public face” of Shalom including signage and website. It was agreed that this most appropriately would be a sub-group under Administration Commission which is ultimately responsible for communication.

Joyce reported that Spiritual Gifts will meet next Tuesday to begin asking people to fill the upcoming vacancies on each commission. In addition, they will facilitate the Congregation’s selection of new members to VAT.

Herb reported that on possibilities being considered for program content for the upcoming September 9th Church Retreat. One idea was to brainstorm for ideas for action plans to work toward accomplishing our new list of church goals. Some however, felt that sounds too much like a church business meeting for a retreat. It was suggested that we have a quarterly church business meeting—some on line,

some in person. Some felt that church meeting go better in the Fellowship Hall than in the sanctuary.

Cheryl reported that VAT is planning to hold a Congregational Meeting after Sunday School on April 30th to work on 1) Congregational Goals and 2) the LGBTQ question for Conference delegates.

Brian reported that he is working in the direction of a 1 month sabbatical in 2024 to do some writing and 3 months in 2025 not fleshed out yet.

Mike reported for Administration that the new dish washer is installed! Some honeysuckle and dead trees have been removed and a work day will be scheduled for this Spring. The sign and the paving have been on the back burner. A grant from Indiana Native Plant Society calls for some additional work in the northwest corner of the church property. There are several other odds and ends including a leak on the flat roof.

Pastor Craig reported that he is still helping 4 ½ hours a week over at first Mennonite and may be ask to continue.

Pastor Brian reported that Wilma will be preaching next Sunday and that Monica Miller from FMC will be preaching on Mother's Day, while Brian preaches over there.

Brian gave us a heads up on important question that will be coming up at IN-MI Annual Meeting having to do with the credentialing (or not) of Pastors in a same sex relationship.

Next Meeting: May 23, 6:00 p.m.