

**Shalom Mennonite Church
Commission Chair Team
Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2024**

The Commission Chair Team convened on May 28, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. EST via Zoom. Present were Frank Kandel, Pastor Brian Bither, Pastor Craig Oury, Brittany Bither, Carol Bixler, Linda Showalter, Zenebe Abebe, and Nizeet Deiter.

Introduction

Frank opened the meeting by asking the team members what they appreciate most about Shalom Mennonite Church. Following the icebreaker, Frank initiated the meeting with a prayer.

Discussion

1. The date for our next meeting was discussed. It was decided that the next meeting will be Monday, July 29th at 6:30 p.m. EST.

Commission Teams Updates

2. Zenebe provided an update on behalf of the **Outreach Commission Team**.
The key points were as follows:
 - The team exchanged information via email last week and will meet again in July.
 - Shalom Mennonite Church will host the Community Summer Picnic on June 23rd. Brian will provide more information soon.
 - Grant money to help with the park is now available, according to Becky Wigginton, the Boys Scout group are now working on widening the path. The National Night Out is on August 6th, and more information will be provided as we get closer to the date.
3. Linda provided an update on behalf of the **Community Life Commission Team**.
The key points were as follows:
 - The focus is the retreat, scheduled for Saturday, October 12th.
4. Brittany provided an update on behalf of the **Worship Commission Team**.
The key points were as follows:
 - She expressed appreciation for the worship team's weekly presence.
 - Communion is now being held more regularly.
 - The worship team will lead worship at the Annual Sessions Conference with Mara Church.

5. Pastor Brian provided an update on behalf of the **Pastoral Team**.

The key points were as follows:

- Acting as a facilitator between the Annual Sessions Conference coordinators and Mara Church, with details including Zenebe Abebe as a worship leader, Shalom Mennonite Church leading worship, and a testimony from a former inmate.
- Working on initiating conversations about LGBTQIA+ issues from a biblical perspective in August.
- Pastor Craig is involved with the Annual Sessions Conference, handling icebreakers and preaching this week. His office hours are every other Wednesday.

6. Carol provided an update on behalf of the **Discipling Commission Team**.

The key points were as follows:

- In July, there will be two adult classes.
- In August, child safety will be addressed, and faith stories will be shared.
- In September, a book study and a Bible study will start.
They are brainstorming how to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Anabaptists, which will be next year.

7. Pastor Craig provided an update on behalf of the **Administration Commission Team**.

The key points were as follows:

- There is significant collaboration within the group.
- The fire extinguisher was certified two weeks ago.
- *Additional Update:*
Mike Wigginton would like the commission chairs to know that the Boy Scouts have been working on the woods trail since they received funds from the neighborhood association. Mulch and signage will follow.

8. Pastor Craig provided an update on behalf of the **Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team**.

The key points were as follows:

- The team has not met but will be meeting soon.
- He will ask members if they wish to continue serving on the commissions for another term (two to four years). Zenebe Abebe's term is ending, and a replacement will be needed.

9. Frank Kandel reported on behalf of the **Vision & Accountability Team**.

The key points were as follows:

- The next meeting is on June 18th, focusing on updating the Welcoming Statement, followed by a meeting with the congregation. He then asked Carol Brixler about possible times.
 - Carol will check with the Discipling Commission Team about availability on a Sunday or Tuesday in July.
- Pastoral Evaluation is open until the end of May and will be analyzed in June.
- Anticipating Sabbaticals for Pastor Brian this year and Pastor Craig next year. The results of the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Grant, which will determine Pastor Brian's sabbatical activities, will be known in August.

Next Meeting

The next Commission Chair Team Meeting is scheduled for **Monday, July 29th at 6:30 pm EST via Zoom.**

Adjournment

Pastor Brian closed the meeting in prayer, and Frank adjourned the meeting at 7:13 pm EST.

Recorded by Nizeet Deiter