

**Church Council**  
**Wednesday, August 5, 2015**

**Present:** Dagne Assefa, Brian Bither, Bob Love, Cheryl Martin, Jim Martin, Carl Rhine, Phil Shenk, Linda Showalter

Carl Rhine led the group in devotions, focusing on trusting God in times of transition.

**Transition update:** We learned from Doug that the usual process for selecting a Transitional Pastor is for a subgroup from Church Council or the Elders to act as representatives of the congregation to review documents about available Pastors, have conversations with some or all of the candidates, and then offer an invitation to a Transitional Pastor on behalf of the congregation. As our Moderator, Church Council and Elders membership will also be transitioning next month, we will look to Rod and the new leadership team to propose a specific process for the selection and invitation of a Transitional Pastor at Shalom. We expect the process to start moving forward as early as next month.

**Outreach Initiative:** This past spring the Outreach Ministry proposed a new direction for Shalom by recommending that we adopt an asset-based, neighborhood-directed outreach mission. This plan was approved through congregational vote in February. However, implementation of the Plan was contingent on there being enough volunteers from Shalom for the roles of “connectors” and “networkers”. In order to effectively implement the Plan we had envisioned, there would need to be at least three individuals or families committed to each of these roles.

We set a deadline for signing-up for one of the roles until the end of July, and unfortunately there were not enough persons in the congregation that were actively committed or interested in the connector or networker roles. Therefore, the Outreach Ministry feels that it is best to no longer pursue this specific Plan. Of course, the people who live in Shalom’s neighborhood are always welcome at the church, and individual church members are encouraged to cultivate relationships with the neighbors. But we are not looking to the neighborhood as the primary direction for our corporate outreach efforts. However, we do believe that the discernment process that we have gone through over the past year and a half has been fruitful. In fact, we’ve learned a lot from this process and would like to further pursue the “asset-based approach” that was introduced to us by outside speakers during our discernment process. We feel that this approach is the best way to build meaningful, sustainable, and authentic connections with others. We see this as a principle that will guide us as we pursue future Outreach efforts.

Although we do not plan to further pursue our original proposal, we recognize that this is not the only way our church can be faithful to the Gospel. We don’t plan to introduce another major Outreach proposal anytime in the immediate future, but we will continue to provide service opportunities for our church as well as celebrate the many gifts and assets that are already present in this congregation. As we are entering into a transitional period as a church, it is our hope that with the help of a transitional pastor we will continue to explore and discern together the direction God is routing us in our congregational efforts, including Outreach.

**Treasurer** - Bob Love

- Budgeted spending: \$113,227; Actual spending: \$101,364; Offerings: \$117,179.

**Pastor Elder Team** - Cheryl Martin

- Cheryl will be working with the creation care group and Buildings & Grounds ministry to help clarify and delineate responsibilities.

**Ministry Reports:**

**Adult Education** - Brian Bither reported for Jay Brubaker

- August’s classes will include a report from Wilma Bailey on her travels to Australia and two "Food & Faith" classes. August 30 will be "Pizzas for Peace", facilitated by Mil Penner.
- No Sunday School classes on September 6, Labor Day weekend.

- There will be two Fall classes: a study of "Slow Church", co-written by a local author, facilitated by the Outreach Ministry. The second class will be a sermon discussion group.
- If Sunday School class time is needed for congregational conversations, Adult Ed would appreciate as much advance notice as possible.

**Buildings & Grounds** - nothing to report

**Children and Youth Nurture** - no report

**Fellowship** - Jim Martin

- August 30 - Pizza for Peace

**Outreach/Welcoming** -

- Our involvement with Interfaith Hospitality Network will be in October. IHN has asked that participating churches help bring more awareness to homelessness in Indianapolis, especially the plight of the children.
- The ministry is considering a "fall festival" in the neighborhood mid-September.
- Several persons are participating in the Boys and Girls Scoring Group.

**Worship** - Linda Showalter - Nothing to report.

**Other**

- Kim Johnson agreed to serve as Discernment Ministry member on council's recommendation. 2015 was council's year to nominate; 2016 will be the year for the congregation to nominate.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, September 2, 2015, 7 - 9 pm