

Commission Chairs Team

July 21, 2020

6:00 PM

1. Jeanne Smucker opened with prayer.
2. Discipling Commission – Martha Yoder Maust
 - a. Carol Bixler resigned from being coordinator of children’s materials.
 - b. Have not identified what to do for children when back in the church building for services.
 - c. Have been impressed with the Children’s Time on Sunday mornings on Zoom.
 - i. May try having everyone turn off their cameras except the families with children so they can see each other.
 - ii. Will try and see how it works.
 - d. Suggestions were made for sources for parents to do things with the children as a Sunday school option, however it may be too much for parents to do.
3. Gathering Safely Subcommittee – Martha Yoder Maust
 - a. It is not looking good for gathering as cases are going up again.
 - b. It has been considered to have meetings outside.
 - i. Logistics are difficult.
 - ii. Lots of work.
 - c. Will have a message in the newsletter about not meeting at least until after August.
 - d. Hybrid services may still be difficult.
 - i. It was suggested to start lining up the tech people for when we do want to start meeting.
 - ii. Worship commission will check with the tech people so they can be prepared when hybrid meeting begin.
 - e. Families of small children have discussed meeting in the fellowship hall and watching the service on the TV monitor.
 - i. This has not yet been discussed with commissions.
 - ii. Would the families really come?
 - iii. Worship commission will talk with Brian and that small group.
4. Worship Commission – Linda Showalter
 - a. The composer of several songs we use, David Haas, has had allegations of sexual misconduct made against him.
 - i. His songs will not be used in the new hymnal.
 - ii. Worship has decided to continue to use these songs.
 - iii. Emily will write a reflection for the newsletter about the situation and why continued use has been planned.
 - b. The worship planners are trying to get more activity into the Zoom services.
 - c. Ideas were discussed for having communion on Zoom like several other churches are doing.
 - i. Worship will think about this.
 - ii. Will try to think of a plan.

- d. Will plan to have tithing mentioned weekly at some point in the service
 - i. Will start with announcement time.
 - ii. Planning to have that continued each week.
 - e. Linda is asking to step down as commission chair. Grace has agreed to become chair starting in January and finishing the remainder of the year.
 - f. Commission received information from MCC about “My Coins Count” and that will be passed on to Discipling.
5. Administration Commission – Sam Bixler
- a. The lift stopped working again. Someone is coming to look at it and get it going again.
 - b. There is now a paid subscription to the cloud Dropbox where recording and other items are being placed (www.dropbox.com)
 - c. Jim Showalter is pretty much ready for the technical aspect of hybrid services.
6. Community Life Commission – Herb Troyer
- a. Not much to share.
 - b. Have a meeting scheduled next week.
 - c. Will discuss how best to help members who are especially isolated from others.
7. Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team – Joyce Troyer
- a. Currently looking for a chair for the Administration Commission.
 - b. The email information regarding the VAT congregational representative is prepared and will be sent out tomorrow.
 - c. It has been determined that Harlan Nelson will not serve as chair of the Administration Commission at this time.
8. Outreach Commission – Brad Yoder
- a. A memo of understanding between Indiana AID and Shalom is being prepared.
 - b. The antiracist statement was sent to the congregation and was well received.
 - i. There was not a clear time frame for responses.
 - ii. A statement about nonviolence needs to be added.
 - iii. Someone commented about the need to live out the statement in actions.
 - c. Zenebe Abebe continues to relate to the Arlington Woods Association.
 - d. Environmental issues – Marilyn Teel
 - i. An award called Cool Congregations was brought to the commission.
 - ii. It is for churches that have done good environmental things.
 - iii. An application for this award has been made.
9. VAT – Jeanne Smucker
- a. Plans for the pastoral candidate if he chooses to candidate with us were discussed.
 - i. If he accepts the invitation to candidate, he will be asked to preach on August 2.
 - ii. It was discussed about ways to implement congregational contacts with him over Zoom.
 - 1. Plan to have church at 9:30 and the introduction to the congregation after that service.

- 2. This will be presented to the congregation on July 26.
 - iii. The requirement for calling the pastor is 85% of the congregation.
 - iv. A congregational meeting will be planned for August 9 following the regular service at 9:30 am.
- b. Deacons
- i. The current plan was set up quickly and was planned for use during the lockdown.
 - ii. It was planned that the congregation would decide if it should be continued after the covid situation was over.
 - iii. Some possible plans will be discussed for placing this group in the church structure so it is ready to present when the time comes.
10. Jeanne thanked the leaders for finding constructive ways to work together during this unusual time to make things work.
11. Sam mentioned it seems there is not a good method in place to incorporate new people who may begin attending over Zoom. No decision was made.
12. Next meeting – September 1 @ 6:00 on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Martin