

The Commission Chairs met for their regular periodic meeting by Zoom on May 22, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Present were Chairperson Cheryl Martin, Zenebe Abebe, Mike Wigginton, Joyce and Herb Troyer, Brittany Bither, Frank Kandel, and Pastors Brian Bither and Craig Oury.

Cheryl opened the meeting with prayer.

In her absence, Martha Yoder submitted the following from the Discipleship Commission:

- The summer adult Sunday School times have all been filled with an interesting variety of important topics presented by a number of different people
- Laura Harms is looking for teachers for the Elementary Sunday School Class for this summer
- Beginning in the Fall, there will be two adult classes: "The Land is Empty" book discussion led by Sabrina Falls and Mike Wigginton; and, "Night for Those who Mourn" by Tish Harrison, teacher being sought.

Zenebe reported for the Outreach Commissio:

- The Commission met last week and will again be meeting July 12
- The Mission/Purpose Statement for the commission has been updated and is now complete
- Late September, early October a neighborhood engagement event is being planned for a Sunday afternoon beginning around 4:00 p.m.— a resumption of pre-Covid activity. Folks from Arlington Woods Neighborhood Association may be invited to join us

- The Commission is updating their list of “point persons” for the various agencies and organizations that the Outreach Commission relates to.

Joyce reported that the Gifts Discernment:

- Team is seeking a Chairperson for the Community Life Commission.
- as soon as the Church Membership Roster is updated, the process of helping the Congregation select a representative to the Vision and Accountability Team (VAT) will begin.

Herb reported that the next Community Life Commission meeting is scheduled for June 5.

Mike reported the Administrative Commission:

- has been dealing with things as they come up as a plugged line that carries drainage away from the sump pumps, leaky roof, etc.
- Last Saturday Spring Work Day to trim bushes, pull weeds, and spread mulch along with some other tasks was accomplished—thank you to all who helped!
- Mike has not forgotten about forming the sub-committee on developing our congregations “public image.” That is, “How do people see us?” Who are we? What image do we wish to portray? This has implications for our logo, our website, our signage, our décor, etc. Suggestion of person interested in such was made.
- that he and Andrew Marting (new appointee to Administrative Commission) have been talking about how to update the sign

ourselves, not so expensive and not having to go through the complicated regulatory process.

Brittany reported for Worship Commission:

- that a new source for ashes is being arranged—something that Dagne always used to provide.
- requested that meal schedule be included on the calendar—apparently there will be a meal in June but not July and August—correct?
- Worship and preaching series beginning in Fall will focus on the Church Covenant and what it means to be church together. This will include recognition of outgoing and incoming church leaders, as well as some on Shalom's history—honoring the Founders.
- Going forward, the time of communion will be irregular but more tied in with the preaching and sermon topics.
- The idea of having a summer Sunday School Class to train new people to help in the tasks for a worship service has been dropped for now.
- The issue of Noise level of children during worship has been raised. The Worship Commission is exploring options to address this issue—it is important to keep a balance so people can hear, and still the children and their parents feel welcome and included.
- Linda Showalter will be going off the commission and they are busy finding people to do all that she has done.
- Weekly prayer during worship for one of our sister church organizations has been instituted.

- Visioning work is important to Worship Commission—what is the goal of Sunday morning worship and how do we best accomplish it?

Pastor Craig reported that he has agreed to do a 3<sup>rd</sup> six month stint helping with pastoral care at FMC and he will be preaching there June first.

Pastor Brian reported that he will be attending IN-MI Annual Meeting and MCUSA Convention. He also serves as Congregational Coach at Mara Church and has been involved in a special project there.

Chery reported for VAT that Martha Yoder is our delegate to Conference and Wilma Baily is our delegate to MCUSA and the terms of their service will be clarified in the near future.

Congregational Meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup> will be to vote on updated Congregation Vision/Goals and to affirm the revised Anti-racism Statement. At its next meeting on May 31<sup>st</sup> VAT will work on the revised Structure Proposal that will include Deacons and hopefully that can be voted on before Cheryl's term ends. Cheryl and Jim will be gone the last two weeks of July.

**Next Meeting, August 2, 6:00 p.m.**