

**First Mennonite Church
Administrative Cabinet Meeting
Wednesday, January 15, 2014**

Present: Tim Krabill, Cheryne Gingerich, Ken Gingerich, David Heusinkveld, Steve Ropp, Dave Sickles, Jen Yoder, Del Miller

1. Tim opened the meeting with prayer
2. The minutes of October 16, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved

3. Commission reports

Christian Ed

There was positive feedback from having the Primary Christmas program during the SS hour in December. The Adult SS Interterm, *Across the Generations: Living the Journey*, began Jan. 12th and will continue through February 16th. Karla and Rosie met with parents of VBS age children for their feedback on VBS.

Elders Report

The Elders have been devoting considerable time to congregational and personal concerns. They continue to work at forming small groups in the congregation. They have affirmed new leadership in the Immigration task force and are happy to see them functioning again.

Fellowship Commission

The year for the Fellowship Committee continues to be busy! The first All-Church Potluck was on November 17th and they had festive cookies at Sip N Chat before the Children's Christmas Program on December 15th. The Christmas Breakfast was canceled due to inclement weather. There was a luncheon meal after Mildred Christner's funeral on January 2nd. The First Annual FMC Coffee House was a rousing success! Meals were provided to several members who were in need.

There are several events planned for this Spring and Summer including, but not limited to: Hawkeye Basketball viewing on February 1st; Women's Event on March 8th; Lenten Meals in March and April; hosting Bethany Choir on April 10th; the Easter Breakfast on April 20th; Grad Sunday on May 18th; two Guest/Host meals on June 8th and July 20th; All Church Picnic on August 2nd; and the Newcomers Potluck on August 31st. There are plans for a Men's Event – it will involve fishing.

There are plans for celebrations of the marriages of several members through showers including: Kirstin Miller, Jason Ropp and Ethan Gingerich.

Mission Commission

Advent giving project resulted in \$663 and 95 buckets full of refugee supplies to be sent to M.C.C. for Syrian Refugees. The buckets were delivered to Crowded Closet the end of December by Dan and Gloria Bontrager.

The mission commission approved giving a one-time contribution to the Hispanic Pastoral and Leadership Education Program of the Mennonite Education Agency of \$200. This was funded out of the discretionary Mission Commission line item.

Plans have been made for upcoming "Moment in Missions". Reports and updates were heard about support through March for Alyssa Rodriguez including continuing stipend, health care and 4-6 weeks of counseling in Fresno and about activities of the immigration task force from Jerry Partridge.

Jerry reported good progress on getting Iowa City photo I.D's so immigrants have opportunities and rights within our city. The mayor and chief of police are supportive. A one page document "Assertion of Rights" has been prepared in Spanish and English to assist immigrants when stopped by police to be distributed in the near future to our immigrant population in Iowa City. Max Villatoro's case is to be given "Oral Hearing (Argument)" before the Eighth Federal Circuit Court in the near future. Plans are also being made to network with the Iowa City Public Library to provide assistance and programming for the immigrant population in the use of resources at the library.

Pastor's Report

1. We welcomed Sarah Kanagy Gingerich to our staff on January 2nd. Sarah brings many gifts to the position. As a pastoral staff we are very grateful to have her on board.
2. Bob will be teaching an Adult Ed. Class entitled "The Wisdom of the Saints" Mar 2nd-May 4th.
3. The church staff would like to contract with someone to design an up to date website for FMC. Once designed, the website would be maintained by our administrative secretary. We seek Ad Cabinet approval to move forward with this project.

Stewardship Commission

1. Treasurer Items-Surprising results, The Commission agreed to send an e-mail to the Congregation sharing this good news
 - a. Year to date giving: \$162,263 (2012-\$143,499 & 2011-\$143,102)
 - b. Year to date disbursements: \$154,144
 - c. General Fund balance: \$9,346.79
 - d. Carol Miller is preparing contribution receipts and will distribute YTD budget reports to Commission Chairs.
2. Bob Smith reported:

Sarah Kanagy has signed the memorandum of understanding. As part of her duties, Sarah will be responsible for the football parking reservations and for the related bookkeeping;
3. The financial review of the last year will be completed by Rick Eigsti and Wendell Miller
4. Columbarium special fund line will be transferred to the Building Fund.
5. The Commission discussed encouraging members of the congregation to use electronic payments, such as ACH and online bill-paying software, to make their offerings to the church. They will consider an approach that would provide electronic payers the opportunity to contribute to the offering

Trustees Meeting Minutes

- The Trustees have completed many projects around the facilities.
- There has been discussion about the thermostats and what it would take to have a main control board for the entire structure of the church.
- Cheryne will arrange to have the carpets cleaned where necessary.
- We walked through the church looking at the filter systems for the furnaces and noting all locations. Roger will contact Graber for inspection about filter replacements. Duane Miller currently maintains several of filters and has offered to continue.
- They will need to wait till spring for the sidewalk repair.

Worship Commission

Have completed Advent services and are planning services for the Lenten season.

4. New Business - Administrative Cabinet approved \$500 to move forward with updating First Mennonite's Web Site
5. Meeting adjourned. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 7PM