

## Christian Education Commission Minutes

Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Present: Rosie Hochstetler, Bob Smith, Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, Laura Krouse, Dennis Bricker

1. Rosie opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Rhonda Miller was a guest and gave us a parent's perspective of the Primary program. The primary children will be invited to play in the Fellowship Hall (west section) with nerf balls and other games, as an active break between worship and SS class. We will begin this next Sunday.
3. Reviewed and approved the minutes of November 21<sup>st</sup>.
4. **VBS** -Rosie and Karla gave a report on the meeting they had with the parents of VBS-aged kids. There wasn't a clear consensus of when and how to do VBS. Since that meeting we have learned that schools will be in session the week we usually hold VBS, due to the many 'snow days'. The following week, camp at Crooked Creek begins, therefore it was decided to not have Bible School this year.
5. **Primary Superintendent** – Laura has agreed to continue as the superintendent and Gifts Discernment Commission will look for an assistant for her.
6. **Peace Camp** – Rosie shared the information she gathered about a possible peace camp. She will call a meeting of those who expressed an interest, to see if we want to pursue this.
7. **Christmas Program** – We all heard positive comments about the time and format of the primary Christmas program. Thanks again to Mary F. and Laura K. for planning this. The **Sunday School Interterm**, "Across the Generations: Living the Journey" was also well received, with good attendance and interaction among the different age groups in our congregation. Thank you to all the panelists and to Bob Smith for moderating the panels.
8. **Reading/Resource List on Anabaptist History and Theology** – Bob compiled the list and gave it to the library to be posted. Karla will also give the list to the MYF teachers for a resource.
9. **Summer Sunday School schedule** – Our summer break will be July 6<sup>th</sup> through August 10<sup>th</sup>.
10. **Graduation Sunday** – will be May 18<sup>th</sup>. Karla will order the Bibles for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders, and Rosie will contact the teachers and seniors.
11. **Reports:**
  - Adult SS Department** – (Kris) David Heusinkveld and friends gave the most recent quarterly Sunday evening program at Pleasantveiw.
  - Primary SS Department** – (Laura) We spent quite a bit of time discussing various issues in the Primary dept. This summer, Laura will use curriculum we have in storage or the Shalom Reader's club books with a Bible story, if that curriculum becomes available.
  - Library** - (Dennis) January and February have seen new additions to the FMC Library. These titles in print and non-print are posted outside the library door. There was a short bulletin item on the new DVD titles added. Evaluating the collection is an ongoing process.

**YMLT** – (Karla) Five high school youth participated in a panel for the Sunday School Interterm. Karla will be leading a Baptism Exploration class in March with two youth.

**Pastor's** – Bob will offer an elective Adult SS class beginning March 9<sup>th</sup> on the "Wisdom of the Saints".

**Next meeting** –Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> @7 pm.

Minutes submitted by Rosie Hochstetler

### **Christian Education Commission Minutes**

**Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Present: Rosie Hochstetler, Bob Smith, Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, Kris Brenneman, Leigh Hornick

12. Rosie opened the meeting with prayer.

13. Reviewed and approved the minutes of February 19<sup>th</sup>.

14. **Reports:**

**Adult SS – (Kris)** The Young Adult Sunday School class gave the program at Pleasantview this quarter. The Sinape class will do the August program.

**Primary – (Laura via email)** The activity time between the worship service and Sunday School is going well, lots of energy dissipated. Summer curriculum will be from the old Jubilee series, "Stories of Faith".

**YMLT – (Karla)** Michaela Gingerich and Stasia Majerick will be baptized later this summer or fall. The Sr. MYF is planning a meal for the Sr. Saints in June. They are also preparing for their service trip to Drift Creek Camp in Oregon. The trip will combine service and reflection and prayer.

**Pastors – (Bob)** The elective class on "Wisdom of the Saints" will conclude on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

15. **Graduation Sunday**– Details of Bibles, teacher gifts, the senior reception and the worship service were discussed and the presenters were/will be notified.

16. **Peace Camp** – Mary Issah and Rhonda Miller are willing to be on the Peace Camp planning committee. Contacts are being made with persons from the local synagogue and mosque to gauge their interest.

17. **Electronic Keyboard** – is in the music room in the Primary Dept. This was donated by HomeTies, to be used by our SS music leaders and the daycare.

18. **Christian Education Spending Plan** - numbers were reviewed and discussed.

19. **Planning for Interterm 2015** – We discussed quite a few of the issues around a possible Interterm subject of faith and the digital media. Karla will make some contacts with possible presenters, and we will continue the discussion at our next meeting.

**Next meeting** – Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm.

Minutes submitted by Rosie Hochstetler

### **Christian Education Commission Minutes**

**Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Present: Rosie Hochstetler, Bob Smith, Kris Brenneman, Leigh Hornick, Laura Krouse, Jill Miller

1. Reviewed and approved the minutes of April 24<sup>th</sup>.

2. **Reports:**

**Adult SS – (Kris)** Teachers are in place for the Bruderschaft class while Kevin Kummer is on sabbatical, August through December. Sinape SS class will give the program at Pleasantview in August.

**Primary – (Laura)** The Sunday school year ended in June. Mary Piper and Noreen Gingerich are writing curriculum for the first two Sundays of the new SS year. There will be just one larger class for the primary dept. in the fall, Laura as teacher, and Rhonda Miller as assistant. An 'elder' will be invited each Sunday to read the Bible story and join the class each Sunday. Rhonda is also reviewing the lessons and planning more active responses to the lesson, including some service projects. A class for 2 year olds will begin in the Winter quarter (Dec.).

**Library (Jill)** – The new computer and better internet service is making the processing and library work much smoother. A cart of books has been out in the Sip n Chat area for the summer with good response. Noreen has encouraged the children to check out the Shalom Reader's books, also with good response. The committee is working with Sarah on web page revision.

**YMLT – (Karla)** The Jr. High SS used the *Mennonite Starter Kit* the past two quarters. 13 Sr. MYFers participated in the service trip to Oregon. They were stretched by giving up cell phones for a few days. Daily reflections emphasized spiritual practices; ways to pay attention to God. Sponsors learned some things about working together that will inform how they will lead together next year.

Sponsors and Karla met with Steve Ropp to plan the MYF budget, which was very helpful. Senior farewell will likely be Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Next YMLT meeting will be Aug. 10.

**Pastors – (Bob)** He considering which book to study for the Fall elective class.

3. **Library checkout by non attenders** – After discussion, we decided that a note should be posted to ask them to leave their contact information to be used if the materials don't get returned. So far this hasn't been a problem, and allowing our resources to be used by others can be a form of outreach.
4. **Summer SS recess** – We briefly discussed whether to expand our summer SS break from 6 to 8 weeks. We will ask around to see what others outside our committee think about that possibility.
5. **Reviewed goals** – We read over the goals set last Sept., and were pleased that most of them were met.
6. **Primary SS** – The new curriculum, *Shine*, includes a Story Bible that we will purchase for each family that has children in the primary dept. Laura will check with Mag about possibly presenting the Bibles during a 'Moment in Mission' /or children's time at the beginning of Sept. We also discussed possibly delaying the Bible we buy for the children after 1<sup>st</sup> grade until they enter 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
7. **Peace Camp** – So far, there has been no interest shown by persons contacted at the local synagogue and mosque.
8. **Seeking God's Will** - is a curriculum presented at Central Plains Conference. We were given two copies, and adult SS classes may use this resource in their classes.

9. **Planning for Interterm 2015** – We discussed with Karla (via speakerphone) several possibilities of resource persons and how we might break the subject of faith and digital technology into different segments for the five Sundays of Interterm next year. Karla will follow up with two of the resource persons and we will discuss this more next meeting.

10. **Closing prayer** – led by Rosie

**Next meeting** – Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm.

Minutes submitted by Rosie Hochstetler

## **Christian Education Commission Minutes**

**Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Present: Rosie Hochstetler, Bob Smith, Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, Leigh Hornick, Laura Krouse, Rhonda Miller

1. **Reviewed and approved the minutes** of July 16th.

2. **Reports:**

**Adult SS – (Leigh)** Patty Miller (asst.) will take care of the Pleasantview participants – 1 group/quarter. Would like to spend time at the next meeting discussing FMC's participation in this. *Seeking God's Will Together*, a study guide from CPM Conference will require a significant time commitment, plus a commitment of participation (buy in) that may not be comfortable for all, thus a better setting might be outside of a typical SS class.

**Primary – (Laura)** The Sunday school year is off to a good start. All kids (pre K – 5<sup>th</sup> graders) are in the same classroom. There have been up to 12 kids in the class, and it has gone very well. Thank you to Jim Piper for the lap desks he made for the classroom. The Primary bake sale is being planned.

**Library - (Report from Jill Miller via email)** We've acquired a software upgrade for the lib. computer. It will take awhile to learn its capabilities. Library circulation increased last year. Thanks to Noreen Gingerich, the Shalom collection had increased usage.

**YMLT – (Karla)** The Jr. High class (teachers -Dawn Krabill and Dave Miller) and Sr. MYF class (teachers - Cathy Gingerich, Nicole Ropp, Lance Miller) are going well. A second set of sponsors for MYF and another co-leader for the mentoring program is still needed.

**Pastors – (Bob)** He will not offer a class in the fall due to scheduling difficulties.

3. **Primary Christmas Program** – It will be December 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am during the Sunday School hour. Mary Piper and Dea Hoeme will plan the program. It was also decided that we will not have Christian Ed hour on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> – the same Sunday as the Christmas breakfast.
4. **Primary SS materials for Torre Fuerte** – The Primary Department is saving its SS materials to be used by the children's program at the Torre Fuerte church. Rosie will be in touch with Noreen about buying Story Bibles for the families.
5. **Shalom Reader's Club** – Noreen did a great job in promoting and getting kids to participate in the Reader's Club this year. The kids in the Primary Dept. really enjoyed having library books read to them during the singing time. Rosie will check with Noreen and Ann about doing that next year.
6. **Interterm 2015** – The theme will be *Faith and Digital Technology*. Dates: Jan 18<sup>th</sup> – Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. A multi age panel, guest speaker, Andy Brubacher Kaethler, and others

from our congregation will be asked to present the gifts and the shadow side of technology.

7. **Our goals for this year will be:**

- a. Support our Primary teachers in this new model of Sunday School.
- b. Make a decision on VBS/summer programming for our children.
- c. Plan the Interterm 2015.
- d. Update the adult SS class lists.
- e. Have a discussion among a wide range of ages about new ways to promote Christian formation.
- f. Learn the capabilities of the new library software.
- g. Explore ways to promote use of the library using the new church webpage.

8. **Next meeting:** Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

Minutes submitted by Rosie Hochstetler

### **Christian Education Commission Minutes**

#### **Wednesday, November 19, 2014**

Present: Rosie Hochstetler, Bob Smith, Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, Leigh Hornick, Laura Krouse, Ann Valenta

1. **Opening prayer** – offered by Rosie
2. **Reviewed and approved the minutes** of September 16.
3. **Reports:**

**Adult SS – (Leigh)** The adult Sunday School class lists were updated this fall.

**Primary – (Laura)** The Primary Sunday school class is going well. Having ‘elders’ tell the Bible Story each week is very well received by the children. Practice for the Christmas program on Dec. 14 will begin soon. The older kids will have a bake sale on November 30 for MCC.

**Library - (Ann)** The new software for the library computer was installed recently. Jill is planning to display the new items added to the collection. The library committee requested that the Shalom Reader’s Club be put under Christian Ed Commission rather than under the library committee. Noreen is continuing lead this program for the second year. Information about the Reader’s club is on the Web, under the library committee section. Sarah G. will link this to the Primary dept.

**YMLT – (Karla)** The meeting with the MYF parents affirmed the way we are nurturing our youth and would like to continue in that way. Dwight Gingerich, John/Linda Yutzy and Ruth Brenneman have agreed to join Nathan as sponsors this year. They will plan to meet 3 times a month. The two youth SS classes are going well. Sarah Gingerich will join Norma Brenneman in leading the Mentor/Mentee program.

**Pastors – (Bob)** Stephanie Grossnickle-Batterton has offered to lead a class for persons wanting to write their memories. This could be a very meaningful experience for older persons. Rosie will follow-up with her about the details. Also, Jim G-B has also agreed to lead an 8 week Bible study on Ephesians. This would probably be best if offered during the SS hour.

4. **Interterm 2015** – The theme will be *Faith and Digital Technology*. Dates: Jan 18–Feb 8. We compiled a list of possible participants and questions for the panel on Jan 18. We also discussed the honorarium and travel reimbursement costs for our

guest speaker, Andy Brubacher Kaethler on Jan. 25. The presenters for Feb. 1 are Esther Johnson, Doug Hornick and Tony Brenneman. J.P. Hourcade will present on the last Sunday, Feb. 8.

5. **VBS** - Rosie will meet with the parents of VBS-aged children in Jan. or Feb. to discuss/brainstorm the options for summer programming for the children.
6. **Bible Memory** – Margalea Warner will lead this program, with Marcia Widmer and Christine Rumsey subbing for her when she is unable to meet with the children.
7. **Next meeting:** Thursday, February 12 at 7 PM.

Minutes submitted by Rosie Hochstetler