

Ad Cabinet Report

August 17, 2016

Present: Del Miller, Diane Funk, Ruth Brenneman, Larry Swartzendruber, Steve Ropp, Tim Krabill, Rosie Hochstetler, Jim Grossnickle Batterton

1. Welcome and Prayer-Del opened the meeting with a prayer.
 2. Review minutes of April meeting-The minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted. Del gave updates since the last meeting:
 - Assistant parkers for football parking have been identified
 - The phone system has been updated and after initial kinks seems to be working well
 - The computers and Wi Fi systems have been upgraded. The computers will be leased, serviced and maintained by Integrated Technology Partners (ITP).
 3. Presentation and approval of 2016-2017 Spending Plan-Steve Ropp presented the Spending Plan for 2016-17. He reviewed many of the line items for clarity and understanding. There was discussion about the new line item recommended by Mission Commission for Iglesia Zoar. A motion was made and seconded to decrease the amount designated to \$1,000. After more discussion a motion was made and seconded to amend the first motion to \$2,000. Discussion continued and then a vote on the amendment was called. The amendment failed by a 4 to 3 vote. A vote was then taken on the original motion which passed 5 to 2. A motion was then made and seconded to accept the Spending Plan with the modification in the Iglesia Zoar line. The Spending Plan will now go to the congregational meeting for a vote.
 4. Stewardship commission's proposal to increase scholarship level to those attending Mennonite colleges: Steve presented a proposal from Stewardship commission to increase the scholarship level to \$3,000 in order to encourage attendance at and support of our Mennonite institutions. Steve explained projections for use of scholarship funds as well as additions to the fund. A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposal of an increase to \$3,000. It passed with a unanimous vote. It will now be presented at the congregational business meeting.
 5. Discussion of pastor duties with commissions and other duties that might be completed by other paid staff. Diane asked Commission chairs to submit a list of duties that pastors have performed related to their commission. She presented the list to date. It will be forwarded to Elders for consideration in lending specificity to pastor duties.

Time was also spent discussing an item identified by interim pastor, Gordon Scoville, regarding the need to examine church structure. We talked about the sustainability of the current commission structure, how to engage all generations in meaningful roles while considering the changes in volunteerism, how to balance the current "tasks" with fewer volunteers etc. Commission chairs were asked to bring ideas about commission's duties that might lend themselves to being done by paid staff. We discussed pros and cons of that. We were at a loss to come up with an approach for addressing the need for structure review and likely modification other than a committee to meet and explore options, which seemed to fly in the face of what we are trying to accomplish, fewer tasks, fewer meetings etc. It was also suggested that commissions be reduced from six members to four.
 6. Commission Reports were given (see below). It was also decided that, given each commission submits minutes from their meetings, we will no longer include these in the Ad Cabinet minutes. Simplify!
- Diane Funk, incoming Moderator chaired the remainder of meeting
7. Orientation for new members-All Ad Cabinet members are continuing from last year. A representative from Elders has yet to be chosen.
 8. Commission chairs were asked to bring 2016-2017 commission goals to the October Ad Cabinet meeting. Given our discussion about exploring ways to reduce the number of volunteer jobs and modify church structure, commissions were asked to review their missions and work in order to identify ways to SIMPLIFY.
 9. The date for Fall Congregational Meeting was set for September 18th
 10. The 2016-2017 Ad Cabinet dates will be: Oct 19, Jan 18, Apr 19, and Aug 16, always at 7:00 p.m.

11. Next meeting: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

12. Meeting was adjourned

Commission Reports

Christian Ed

1. There was good participation at our recent one night joint bible school with Torre Fuerte. There was lots of enthusiasm and about 30 children.
2. Christian Ed classes will begin August 21st. There will be 4 - 5 classes in the primary dept. this year, up from two classes last year.
3. Jim Grossnickle Batterton will lead a sermon response class this quarter and also Circe Stumbo will lead a book study on Troubles I've Seen, by Drew Hart. We are hoping to offer electives throughout the year.
4. Karla will offer a baptism preparation class in Sept. and Oct., then in Nov. she will start a parenting/grandparenting group discussion during the SS hour.
5. Leigh, Karla and I are working on planning Intergenerational events during the year.

Elders

1. Elders have been laying the groundwork for Karla's tri-annual review
2. Securing leadership options following Gordon's departure and arrival of potential new leadership person(s)
3. Reviewing goals set at the beginning of the year, how we are faring
4. Continual review of pastoral care during this interim period
5. Regular contact with the search committee
6. Involvement in the R1 Visa procedure
7. Continued discussion surrounding the listening process of LGBTQ, including the next steps; waiting until September sometime to open up the process again
8. Working with Karla on her responsibilities during this interim period
9. Giving attention to job descriptions for potential pastor(s)
10. Jim's time in leadership will end in November

Fellowship

Our year continues to be a fun one! Family Game Night was planned on a beautiful night in April. The turnout was a little small but those who did show had a great time. We celebrated the graduation of Natalie Graber and Eli Gingerich on May 22nd with cake, fruit and coffee. The All Church Picnic on June 12th was a hit; over 90 people participated! This was due in part to having the church service at Lower City Park; fun was had by all! We said Farewell to Gordon Scoville, our interim Pastor, on July 24th with a special Sip N Chat. There was a baby shower for Amy Hershberger on April 23rd and a wedding shower for Brianna Rodriguez and Scott Rendin on May 28th. We also had a Sip N See Baby Shower for Maya and Matthew Yoder on August 7th. Each family was presented a book and a card from the church. We celebrated three weddings: Brianna Rodriguez & Scott Rendin (5/29), Nate Gingerich & Haley Riddle (6/11), and Erin Yoder & Clayton Funk (7/23). Meals were provided to the following members of our congregation: Amy & Jon Hershberger, Maya & Matthew Yoder, and Willie & Elaine Yoder, .

We have one last event coming up soon: the Newcomers Potluck on Sunday, August 28th.

Next year we will be repeating many of our most successful events and coming up with new activities to keep everyone engaged. We anticipate that the upcoming year will include welcoming a new pastor and that we will play host to a number of events surrounding this exciting chapter.

Mission Commission

1. We have connected with IC Compassion, located at the Nazarene Church in Iowa City, following an Immigration Conference held there in April and attended by Bryson Dean. Bryson has since volunteered in helping with English classes, and Jim Brennehan has received help with legal services and housing for a refugee family from El Salvador he connected with in Texas who are in search of asylum. Executive Director Teresa Stecker brought a Focus on Mission June 26th. We anticipate more collaboration with IC Compassion in the future.

2. We are working with MCC IVEP and the Crowded Closet to bring Ashisha Lal of India as a volunteer. Unfortunately, after her first interview, Ashisha was denied a visa. MCC India will work with her to try again. We hope for her arrival later in September.
3. 273 pounds of food and household necessities were delivered to the Crisis Center Food Bank as a result of the generous contributions from FMC to the Thanksgiving in July Food Drive.
4. In March, we began work on a proposal for FMC to add Max Villatoro to our pastoral staff for the purpose of petitioning the U.S. government for a religious worker visa to return him to his work as pastor for Iglesia Torre Fuerte. The proposal was presented to the congregation in May. Following several congregational meetings for discussion and discernment, a vote by the congregation has been scheduled for August 21st.
5. We will gather contributions from the congregation and assemble MCC School Kits on September 4th during sip and chat with help from the Jr. MYF.
6. We plan to present a January Interterm series discussing race relations in Iowa City during the Christian Ed. hour in January.

Submitted by Tim Krabill

Stewardship-no report submitted

Trustees-no report submitted

Worship-no report submitted