

## Christian Education Commission Minutes

Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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

1. **Opening prayer** – offered by Rosie
2. We spent time **discussing Christian Formation**, including the content (bible study), the relational part (caring for one another), and spiritual growth. The current Sunday School classes may be meeting the needs of some persons, but not others. Are there ways to do it differently to include more? This will be an on-going discussion, and we hope to bring more people (of a variety of ages) into the discussions in the future.
3. **Reviewed and approved the minutes** of November 19<sup>th</sup>.
4. **Reports:**
  - Adult SS – (Leigh)** No report.
  - Primary – (Laura)** Laura would like to step away from teaching the class from late March through the end of the year. We discussed possible teachers to replace her.
  - Library - (Ann)** Mary Piper has volunteered to help with the library bulletin boards. The library will highlight the books in our collection that tie in with Brian McLaren. We also discussed posting a short review of new books.
  - YMLT – (Karla)** The JrMYF attended Winterfest at CCCC, Jan. 16-18. The SrHigh class is attending Interterm. Thank you to those who participated in the panel discussion on Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>. Karla will be teaching a four-session study on sexuality this winter/spring. Several youth have expressed interest in the baptism exploration class to be offered beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>. And, preparations have begun for the youth MCUSA Convention in Kansas City this summer.
  - Pastors – (Bob)** He will be teaching 3-4 weeks in the Remnant SS class in March.
5. **Education Sunday** – will be May 17<sup>th</sup>. Karla will order the Bibles for the seniors, eighth graders and first graders. Rosie will buy the gifts for the SS teachers, and will talk with the Worship Commission about a worship leader.
6. **VBS/Summer programming** - Rosie and Karla will meet with the parents of VBS-aged children on Feb.26<sup>th</sup>, to discuss/brainstorm the options for summer programming for the children.
7. **Easter/Summer schedule**- We will not have SS classes on Easter Sunday, and our last Sunday of the SS year will be June 7<sup>th</sup>. We will set the date to start the new year when we find out the start date for the local schools.
8. **Jim and Stephanie Grossnickle-Batterton** will probably lead their Bible Study SS class (Jim) and small group on writing memoirs (Stephanie) later this spring or summer.
9. **Next meeting:** Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.  
Minutes submitted by Rosie Hochstetler

## Christian Education Commission Minutes

Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Present: Rosie Hochstetler, Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, Leigh Hornick, Laura Krouse, , Rhonda Miller, Dennis Bricker, Patty Miller, Diane Funk (guest)

1. **Opening** – Psalm 65:1, 9-11 and prayer
2. **Reviewed and approved the minutes** of February 12<sup>th</sup>.
3. **Reports:**
  - Adult SS – (Leigh)** No report.
  - Primary – (Rhonda)** Laura is taking a break from teaching these last few months of the year. The primary/middler class continues to be a challenge, especially with only one teacher, but it has been difficult to get subs or assistants. Laura and Rhonda are discussing ways to change the classroom to make it more meaningful for the kids, and more doable for the teachers. However, changes made from last year's model have made a significant improvement. The 2 year old class is no longer meeting and will resume in the fall.
  - Library - (Dennis)** We continue to purchase and process items for the collection. We highlighted books from Brian McLaren during his recent speaking in Iowa City. Mary Piper is doing the bulletin boards. An ongoing task is removing books not circulated in more than 5 years, except if it is one of value to the collection.
  - YMLT – (Karla)** The MYF has had 3 of 4 sessions of our sexuality study. Baptism Exploration class continues with one session per month. Preparations are underway for the MCUSA Convention in KC. John/Linda Yutzy and Nicole/Nathan Elliot will attend as sponsors.
  - We recently had a mentor-mentee bowling event for Jr. Hi pairs which was well attended. Sr. Hi organizing has been more difficult.
  - Attendance at YMLT meetings has been sparse, and May meeting was cancelled.
  - Pastors** – No report
4. **Education Sunday** – will be May 17<sup>th</sup>. We confirmed the details of the upcoming service. Rosie will follow up and communicate with the participants.
5. **VBS** – Karla reported that Mary Issah and Lisa Schumacher are the co-coordinators of VBS. They will reuse VBS curricula from past years. The proposed time is August 18-21 in the evening.
6. **Next year's start date for SS classes is August 23<sup>rd</sup>.**
7. **Christian Formation discussion** - We briefly resumed discussion of how we do Christian Formation at FMC by talking about our dreams, our overall goals and trying to answer the question, "What do we want? What does God want?" We realized this kind of discussion needs a whole evening, rather than trying to do it in little sections at a time.
8. **Rethinking MYF Sponsor roles** – Diane Funk, chair of Gifts Discernment, came to our meeting and discussed the difficulty in finding MYF sponsors, She and Karla had met with a sponsor, and from that discussion came up with a new proposal for youth sponsor roles. This would include spelling out the tasks more clearly, decreasing the expectation of going to every meeting, football parking, and service trip/convention, plus not feeling bound to continue some activities that have been done in the past. We want the program to be sustainable. Also, several persons (support team) would be tapped to assist the sponsors in time-consuming tasks of communication and organization. We also discussed encouraging the MYFers to take on more responsibility for their activities.
9. **Next meeting:** Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm. At Java House East.  
Minutes submitted by Rosie Hochstetler

## Christian Education Commission Minutes

Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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

1. **Opening prayer**
2. **Reviewed and approved the minutes** of May 7<sup>th</sup>.
3. **Reports:**
  - Adult SS – (Leigh)** No report.
  - Primary – (Laura)** Classes aren't meeting during the summer. Roger Schrock has agreed to assist Laura in teaching the primary class in the fall. Rhonda will be one of the subs. Several persons will be asked to be teachers for the 2 year old class, and the music person.
  - Library** - No report.
  - YMLT – (Karla)** The MYF led the worship service this past Sunday, sharing what they had experienced at MCUSA Convention in Kansas City recently. Nicole/Nate Elliott and Isaac/Lisa Yoder Schrock will be youth sponsors for the MYF next year.
4. **VBS** – Planning is underway. It will be three evenings during the last week before Iowa City schools start.
5. **Interterm '16** – Karla will check with Gordon Scoville, our interim pastor, if he'd like to use the Sunday School sessions usually set aside for Interterm, for his work during the transition.
6. **Christmas Program** – We began discussion on what type of program we'll have this year. Probably something similar to last year.
7. **The start date for SS classes is August 23<sup>rd</sup>.** We discussed how things are going in the Primary Dept., what could be changed to make it better. Rhonda will check with Trustees about putting a carpet ball in the Fellowship hall for the kids to use during the transition times. Rosie will check about using the HomeTies key to the playground. Karla will check with some parents of 2yr olds about the timing of the SS time. Leigh offered to look at the SS materials and suggest ideas to Laura and Rhonda on more creative ways to teach the lessons.
8. **Next meeting:** Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Bring along your goals for the new year.

Minutes submitted by Rosie Hochstetler

## Christian Education Commission Minutes

Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Present: Rosie Hochstetler, Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, Rhonda Miller, Patty Miller

1. **Opening** - Rosie read Psalm 15<sup>th</sup> and offered a prayer.
2. **Reviewed and approved the minutes** of July 14<sup>th</sup>.
3. **Reports:**
  - Adult SS – (Patty)** The Icthus and Remnant classes are attending the sermon response classes offered by Gordon Scoville.
  - Primary – (Rhonda)** Playtime between worship and SS hour was discontinued. More substitute teachers have been asked to help with the primary/middler class when it doesn't suit Roger S. The 2-year-old class is going well.

**Library** - No report.

**YMLT – (Karla)** An orientation lunch was held Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup> for youth sponsors and teachers. The MYF support team is in place for MYF sponsors. Lance Miller is teaching the MYF SS class, with Cathy Gingerich giving him breaks. The JrMYF went to the Sickles recently to make apple cider. Gifts Discernment is still looking for another JrMYF sponsor or two. Safe church training will be Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>. Karla is reconsidering the role of the YMLT meetings this year – whether the meetings are helpful to the teachers/sponsors. She will also be talking with some of the parents of youth about not offering a Baptism Exploration class this year (because of it being a transition year and she'll be on maternity leave this winter.)

4. **Shalom Reader's club leader** – Noreen Gingerich agreed to be the leader again this year.
5. **Interterm '16** – An announcement will be put in the bulletin about not having the usual interterm since several congregational meeting will be held during the SS class time. The children will have shortened class times on those Sundays.
6. **Christmas Program** – Laura and Dea are planning the program. It will be held Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, during the Christian Education hour.
7. **Bible Memory** – It was decided that a symbolic gift be given to those adults who learn the 50 verses.
8. **Mentor/mentee** – Mary Forney has agreed to take the position of coordinator. She is interested in reviewing/reimagining this program, and plans to spend some time talking with past and present mentor/mentees.
9. **Goals for the new year** –
  - a. Review and rewrite the Christian Ed job descriptions.
  - b. Define the purpose of Christian Education hour for adults and children as part of our ongoing Christian Formation discussion.
  - c. Offer at least two adult Sunday School options
  - d. Seek out resources for the changing landscape of Christian Education.
  - e. Support exploration for the roles of MYF sponsors and the mentor/mentee program.
10. **CE Seminar** – Rosie, Karla and Leigh will be attending a workshop on *Faith Formation for a New Age* on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Iowa City.
11. **Next Meeting** – November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Minutes submitted by Rosie Hochstetler

### **Christian Education Commission Minutes Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Present: Rosie Hochstetler, Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, Rhonda Miller, Patty Miller, Ann Valenta, Leigh Hornick (guest)

1. **Opening** - Rosie read several scripture passages emphasizing the variety of ages/generations who are a part of God's people and offered a prayer.
2. **Reviewed and approved the minutes** of September 15<sup>th</sup>.
3. **Reports:**

**Adult SS – (Patty)** The Icthus and Remnant classes are attending the sermon response classes offered by Gordon Scoville. She will be looking at finding someone to lead some alternate SS classes this spring.

**Asst. Adult – (Noreen via email)** A group from FMC provided an evening service at Pleasant View Home in Oct., another is planned for Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Primary – (Rhonda)** Plans for the Christmas program on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> are underway.

**Library - (Ann)** We continue to review the collection for relevancy and usage. Items not circulated for 11 years were taken to Crowded Closet. Jill Miller will soon display Christmas CDs and books. A DVD, "Listening for Grace" was displayed after the recent Ted Swartz play at the Old Brick. Six items listed on the collection of Anabaptist history and theology suggested by Bob Smith has been ordered.

**YMLT – (Karla)** The JrMYF went to Laura Krouse's farm recently. Matt/Maya Yoder have joined Mark/Kristina Gingerich as sponsors. SrMYFers have been inviting older members of FMC to share about their faith. There are preliminary plans for the MYF to go to Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp for the service trip this summer.

4. **Shalom Reader's club report** – (Noreen Gingerich) Parents have been informed about the reader's club via email and mailbox flyers. Noreen read one of the recommended books to the K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade class, along with an invitation to participate. She will plan to do that once or twice more this year. Thank you to the librarians for having the books on hand, and making them very visible in the library. And a thank you to Mary Piper for assisting with the bulletin board that highlights the program.
5. **CE Seminar Report**– Rosie, Karla and Leigh reported on the workshop they attended on *Faith Formation for a New Age* on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> /2<sup>nd</sup>. Since about half of young adults leave the church permanently when they graduate from high school, the presenters of this workshop (Vibrant Faith) looked at what works in faith formation, and keeps persons involved in a church. Relationships are more important than content (especially relationship with parents – how do we support and resource parents in that role?). Intergenerational relationships are very important. Everyone benefits from meaningful connections with others of all ages - grandparents, parents, young adults, peers, and even younger children. We shared ideas on how church, especially the SS hour could be made more intergenerational. We also need to learn the language of digital technology to communicate with the next generation, and some small steps have been taken in that area.
6. **Mentoring program** – Karla, Rosie and Leigh met recently with Mary Forney about changes in the mentoring program. Mary has also been doing some research in that area. The idea of *Faith Webbing (another name may be used)* will be introduced in January 10<sup>th</sup>. Karla will introduce the underlying theological basis for this way of mentoring in her sermon that morning. There are still some details to be decided.
7. **Sunday School schedule** – There will be no Primary SS classes on Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> (Christmas breakfast) and Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>. Adult classes should feel free to meet on those Sundays. The last Sunday of the year will likely be the last Sunday on May (depends on snow days).
8. **Next Meeting** – Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.  
Minutes submitted by Rosie Hochstetler