220922ommChrsMinutes

The Commission Chairs met for their regular meeting on September 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. by Zoom. Participating were Cheryl Martin, Zenebe Abebe, Martha Yoder, Joyce Troyer, Herb Troyer, Brian Bither, Mike Wigginton, Brittany Bither, and Frank Kandel.

Zenebe reported on behalf of the Outreach Commission: they regularly place announcements in the bulletin and newsletter; they will be meeting on 9/27 to discuss Anti-racism; the CAPS project with Green Tree Plastics in Evansville has been concluded. Green Tree Plastics has been taken over by new owners.

Martha reported for Discipling that Wilma Bailey has joined the Commission. They have scheduled the Adult Sunday School Hour during November (beginning October 30th) for congregational visioning to be led by VAT. The Anti-racism Steering Committee has been established including Barbara Abebe, CoraLyn Turentine, Carol Bixler, and Brian Bither. Martha asks each church entity to “have a look” at their “job description,” and read it through with the eyes of our anti-racism learnings and discussions. Second Sunday of the month caucus discussions will continue. The revised Outreach initiated statement on anti-racism will be considered by the caucuses for feedback and later by the whole congregation for as broad of exposure as is possible. On another subject Martha reported that is has been hard for Laura Harms to find all the teachers necessary for the children and youth Sunday School classes.

Joyce reported for Gifts Discernment that a member is still being sought for the Community Life Commission.

Herb reported that CLC has been busy planning for the October 8th Church Retreat at Jameson Camp and are finalizing registration to know how many to plan for. Information on future church fellowship meals will be forthcoming. And “meal train” for families with newborns and others needing meals is being worked on. Brian reported that a small group for parents with young children has started up again.

Brian reported that he has started an orientation class for newcomers and he is very encouraged about the level of interest and participation. He asked us to continue to pray for FMC and their pastor Monica Miller who is recovering from long covid.

Mike reported for Administration that our long-term neighbor Shirl Frost has put her house up for sale and that she will be missed. Also, the Jr. picnic table from Green Tree Plastics has been added to the playground which brings our CAPS project to a close. Three new security cameras are installed and functioning. There are some issues with the elevator/lift which Jim Showalter is troubleshooting. Administration is looking into request for carport at front door of church similar to FMC. Also, the front sign project and blacktop repair will be picked up again. A Fall workday will be scheduled in mid-November.

Brittany reported for Worship that a container has been placed in the entry area for recycling bulletins. No one has volunteered as “greeters” so for now we’ll let it happen spontaneously by whoever is in the entry way when people come in. A “point-person” will be appointed for those worshipping on Zoom to act as host and allow for a chat time. The Worship Commission handed out surveys for people to volunteer to have their gifts used in various aspects of church life. When the results are collected, they will be distributed to the person responsible. Consideration is being given to creating a “play list” of Shalom favorite songs and hymns on u-tube for people to utilize on their own for individual worship.

Cheryl reported that VAT is in the process of appointing an additional person to serve on Gifts Discernment to fill the vacancy left by Rafael. Also, masks have now been made optional at church. A survey is being prepared to canvass the congregation in preparation for the upcoming congregational re-visioning.

At our next meeting at 6:00 p.m. on November 10th we will review the budget proposal that Bob Love is assembling.