

Pastoral Team Minutes, Feb. 29, 2016

Time Keeper-Mark; Minutes-Laurie

Present: Lorie Hershey, Brenda Rich, Mark Michalovic, Laurie Callan

We began with Centering Prayer.

Updates on Elders Ministry Groupings:

Mark met on 2/28 with the Outreach Groups, which now includes PowerLinks, MCC Relief Sale, Gardening Group and B.B. Comegys support group. All of these groups report need for more support from the congregation. Mark is planning to have an "Outreach Fair" one Sunday coming up during snack time, to allow each group to set up a table of information, etc about what they are doing and what they could use help with. Several people responded to e-mail about interest in a Syrian Refugee Support group. They plan to meet soon to discuss what kind of support they would like to pursue.

Nick Lordi plans to have a meeting of The Children and Youth workers in March.

Brenda gathered with the Faith Formation group recently and plan to meet again in May. They discussed the upcoming Baptism series and church retreat. Community Life group only needs to meet about twice a year and is not due now.

The Caring Team, which comes under Pastoral Care needs, led by Lorie and Laurie has a group of six people interested in shaping what the Caring Team does. They are working on gathering together in the next month.

We discussed some items related to the church's "year of preparation and visioning," related to welcoming returning citizens. Lorie shared that the book study of The New Jim Crow book has ended and was thought provoking for those involved. She discussed a number of groups who seem to be focusing in some way on issues related to Mass Incarceration: Power, has 4 action team, one they are calling Live Free, MCC in Washington, MCC East Coast, some local churches also.

Discussed briefly Lorie's upcoming sabbatical, which is to start at the end of May through the end of August or beginning of September. She is working on the exact dates with HRC. Lorie mentioned wanting to attend the Prison Summit which is in June, but also interested in a mediation program being held at EMU, during the same time; as part of her study during

sabbatical.

We touched on elders terms ending in May, which would be right before the sabbatical time begins. (Brenda's term ended last year and she had agreed to extend by one year. Laurie's first 3 year term is ending.) We both are thinking and praying about it still. HRC would like to know in the next few wks, so they can start planning for any replacements needed.

Lorie shared about being part of a meeting of pastors who met with Franconia Conference Leaders, on Feb. 23rd, to hear conference vision coming out of the November Delegate Assembly. They discussed what is needed for these pastors and congregations to continue to live into their calling and thrive within Franconia Conference.

Nick shared via e-mail, that he has spoken with Dorianna, Admin Asst and Alex, Deacon, about Web advertising and they will be taking the next steps needed.

Shared Pastoral Care concerns and prayed.

Next Meeting: Either Wed. 3/16 or 3/23. Time Keeper: Laurie and Minutes: Brenda