

Pastoral Team Minutes
March 9, 2015

In Attendance: Lorie Hershey, Mark Michalovic, Brenda Rich, Ken Beidler, Laurie Callan

- Lorie led in a time of prayer.

- We spent some time reflecting on our congregational practice of communion.
 - Shared learnings about communion from an article by Mennonite theologian Eleanor Kreider.
 - Discussed plans for a fall worship series looking at our assumptions, experiences, understandings of communion.
 - Plan to celebrate communion as feast on Easter this year with people bringing different breads.
 - Reflected on Don Brunk's sermon and the decision to offer bread to children/youth. Mark shared members' reflections from Adult Sunday School hour.
 - Decision: We will continue to explore different ways of celebrating communion. Will inform congregation through bulletin announcements when the Sunday practice of communion is significantly different than the norm.

- We discussed ongoing plans for Church retreat.
 - Lorie will be in contact with Jane Hooper Peifer our speaker about details related to theme.
 - Laurie Callan will forward to deacons last year's e-mail thread regarding retreat payments and church discount.

- Lorie share about progress in application process for Lily Foundation funding for 2016 sabbatical. Lorie is working on a theme of "Bridge-building" across differences. Sabbatical planning committee (Reuben W. Ryan G., Ken Beidler and Drick Boyd) along with Lorie are putting together the application material which includes a description of how the congregation will engage the theme during/after Lorie's sabbatical.

- Updates:
 - Lorie has agreed to be a delegate for Franconia Conference at the MCUSA meetings in Kansas City this summer.
 - We are still contacting potential WPMF members about being our congregational representative at MCUSA meetings in Kansas City.
 - Lorie reported on ongoing plans for training/learning with the Bryson Institute. We are looking at a Sunday in May for a time of interaction with LGBTQ youth. Details are still being planned. In future meetings we will continue to review packet Kelly gave us, Brethren Mennonite Council Inclusive Church resource.
 - Lorie contacted John Stolfus (Franconia Conference Youth Minister) about being a resource for us in the area of youth formation. He is happy to meet with the elder team and also come to WPMF on a Sunday to preach on the theme. Will try to meet with him in person/by phone at our April 13 elders meeting.
 - Guess Who's Coming to Dinner: Tim and Carol Martin Johnson have agreed to plan this sometime in the spring.
 - We discussed elders attending the upcoming conversations on race.
 - Mark will work at scheduling a meeting for outreach groups in March.

- Miscellaneous
 - We discussed getting our minutes to Dorianna. (She has not received any 2015 pastor/elder minutes to date.)
 - Laurie Callan will contact HRC about elder replacements/nomination process.

- We shared pastoral care concerns and prayed.

Next Meeting; Wed. March 25 7pm.