

Pastoral Team Minutes-June 22, 2015

Lorie--Facilitator; Laurie—Minutes; Mark—Time Keeper

We began with prayer after listening to each other share briefly about what was on our hearts tonight.

Looked over Job Description for Pastoral Team (done whenever we have a new team member). Lorie would like to be the facilitator of meetings for awhile, since she has been creating the agenda, to see if things flow better. She will assign someone as Timekeeper, to keep us on track.

Discussed the New Organizational Structure that was presented at the recent Congregational Meeting. The “map” of structure does not have names of designated elders on it.

The following are the designated elders who will be doing oversight to the various areas: Nick Lordi: Children and Youth; Brenda Rich: Community Life; Brenda Rich: Faith Formation; Mark Michalovic: Outreach; Laurie Callan: Pastoral Care (along with the Pastor, assisting as needed and connecting as needed with others; for example: Elaine Shenk coordinates meals for those in the congregation who have a special need.)

Discussed creating a job description for the various oversight groups, each may have different needs; some may not need to meet as often as other groups, for example. We decided that each should meet at least quarterly; community life may only need to meet 1 or 2x a year. Faith formation more, possibly.

Brenda will send out an e-mail to the congregation, for those who were not at the meeting, explaining that church council, along with the pastoral team, has created a new organizational structure, centered around what we feel are our core ministries at this time. We will explain the oversight of each committee by an elder, who will then report back to the pastoral team, so that there is more communication between all the groups within the church body.

We discussed the visit by John Stoltzfus, Franconia Conference Youth Minister, who preached this month and was present with the congregation for a discussion after church, regarding youth/children issues. Some things we thought were highlighted: the energy that was brought by the group to discuss youth issues and the possibility of having a parent forum or group gathering again of some sort. The group at this gathering was energized by discussion around communion and baptism of youth. We discussed the possibility of a worship series or some other format where the church delved into these issues more, including looking at how we as adults view our baptism and how we talk about our baptism and communion with our children and as a church body.

We discussed having an exploring Anabaptist faith class just for the youth, not combined with adults.

It was mentioned at the gathering that we do not have any S.S. class for young adults specifically (thinking about youth from WPMF who graduate from high school, but are still around. How do we engage them? Where do they feel they fit in to the church life?)

Several people brought up the idea of having some sort of ritual for youth (12 yr olds?) like they see in friends of other faith traditions; for example, a retreat that would be for a parent and a youth .

Other business: We discussed church retreat comm. And small grps, briefly. Nothing to report.

Discussed our practice of having the WPMF custodian (usually under the age of 18) open the building on Sunday mornings, and the need to look at that practice, with the desire to ensure we are meeting our child safety policy, looking at issues of who else has access to the bldg. and when the doors are open for others to enter.

Next Mtg in church office July 9.