

Pastoral Team Minutes – Mar 16, 2016

Time Keeper— Laurie

Minutes— Brenda

Present: Lorie Hershey, Pastor; Laurie Callan, Brenda Rich, Nick Lordi, Mark Michalovic

7:30 Centering & Prayer

7:40 Updates

- Nick: **Men's Retreat:** Date for first Men's retreat has been set for the weekend of September 23-25, at Black Rock. No programming planned. Cabins (and motel) available. Booking 2 cabins for now (20 people). Planning group is Nate, Ken, Matt. Open to young men age 12 +. Save the date will be posted.
- Nick: **Redemption Housing.** Nick put in Shalom Fund application, and we will have congregation meeting April 10 to approve the request. Connecting group for this includes: Mark M, Sylvia H, and Robert K.
- Laurie: **Caring Team** met, and identifying what the team members able to do. This team will be introduced in early April. They will be available for contact directly in many circumstances. Email will be Caringteam@wpmf
- Mark: **Ministry Fair** planning for snack time on April 17, to highlight various volunteer outreach opportunities.
- Lorie: **Jr High Exploring Baptism class** is going to the Mennonite Historical society in Germantown during Sunday School class, followed by lunch at the Wissahickon, where previous baptisms have taken place (both Anabaptist and WPMF) Mentors are invited to the lunch.
- Lorie: **Baptism worship/Sunday school series.** Have met with Retreat planning committee.
- Lorie: **WPMF leaders meeting with Franconia Conf** (Ertell Whigham and Jennifer Morales) at Ertell's request regarding our letter to the conference. This meeting to include Pastor Lorie, Church council chair Alex Esh-Bouwman, Delegates Mark M, Drick, B. and Tim MJ in April.
- Brenda: **Community Life** meets again in June, as a wrap up for the year. Date tbd.

8:00 2016 Year of Preparation

- **Book study group discussion** and ideas
 - New Jim Crow has statement near end of book that said it's futile to address mass incarceration without addressing racism. Study Group agreed and think that's important for our congregation during this time. Had ideas of doing a book study around Drew Hart's book, Trouble I've Seen (racism within church). Other books might be Bryan Stevenson's book, Drick Boyd's book on White Allies (which has discussion questions following each chapter)
 - Also idea to be purposeful in prayer. Steeping ourselves in it, listening for water (Brooke's sermon). And to do this while we're taking steps of education, awareness, and action.
- **Franconia Conference grant** for costs during our preparation year; next year apply for grant specific to a need Redemption Housing has. We can get up to \$5000, and can apply two years running, if the purpose of the grant each year has a related but different focus. Year one could be around RH prep., Year 2 for RH. Criteria: specified need in the community, church involvement, emerging leadership development.
- **Preachers:** Tim Shellenberg's mom is professor at Tabor and teaches restorative justice in connection with criminal justice system. She accepted invitation to preach June 26.
- **Comegys School:** at the point of discerning our level of involvement, i.e. be a partnering church meaning that when needs arise they let us know. Currently have more informal relationship. Currently several wpmf members engaged in different ways.

8:30 Sabbatical June 1 – Aug 31: Planning for Pastoral Team

1. Sabbatical Planning List:

- Plan and develop Pastoral Team agenda: Elders will rotate calling for agenda items and facilitating Elders meetings during sabbatical.
- Keeping track of new attendees, making sure they know ways to get involved/connected. Brenda will work on developing a leaflet/welcome packet for new attenders.
- Ministry groups should be scheduled during sabbatical to keep communication open.
- Stay in touch with HRC re any changes in ministry positions for upcoming fall.
- Mentoring program. Nick will check in with Brooke as Mentor Coordinator. How did the year go? What went well, what needs changing, what next? We expect about 4-5 new mentees coming into 6th grade.
- Pastoral Care as needed.

- 2. Team transitions during this time.** Laurie and Brenda discerning whether to extend their terms. Laurie Callan notified HRC that she is willing to continue as Elder, will move toward giving up as Retreat coordinator. Brenda will notify HRC that she is ending as Elder, but is willing as needed to participate in transitional meetings in May/June. Carie Davis has been presented as Interim Pastor during Lorie's sabbatical. She would start coming to Elders meetings starting the week of May 22.

8:45 Other agenda

- **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner** this May or early June. Lorie will ask Tim/Carol MJ if they are willing to organize this again. Brenda will check in with Community Life group whether this group could take this on for future organizing.
- **Marriage enrichment time** for members of the congregation. Haven't done for at least 10 years. Brenda and Laurie both recall participating in the past and found it stimulating and helpful. Lorie will check with a several folks who do marriage workshops, who might be willing, or could connect us with others who may do this locally.

9:10 Pastoral Care and Prayer

Lorie will send potted plant for recent loss in our congregation.

Next Meeting: CHANGED: Monday, April 11, 7:30pm

Time Keeper: Brenda

Minutes: Nick

Future agenda:

- Brethren Mennonite Council Rep ó work on job description and ways we see this representative helping us to live into our vision of welcome.