

WPMF Pastoral Team Minutes – February 16, 2015

**Present: Lorie Hershey, Pastor; Laurie Callan, Elder; Brenda Rich, Elder;
Mark Michalovic, Elder**

Pastor Lorie, facilitator; Mark, scribe

6:30 Meeting with Kelly Kroehle and Phantazia Washington of the Bryson Institute

1. Kelly Kroehle described the kind of event that the Bryson Institute could hold at West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship. The event would mainly consist of LGBT individuals telling their personal stories. Some of the speakers would be youths, while others would be older. Kelly also talked about videos (available on YouTube) that people in the congregation could watch beforehand to prepare for the event. Holding the event on a Sunday morning during worship, then following the event with further storytelling during adult Sunday school was also discussed. The month of May was agreed as the most likely time this event could be held, though an exact date was not determined.
2. Kelly provided the Pastoral Team with additional resources, such as the Supportive Congregations Checklist, and materials from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.
3. Kelly also suggested having a table at Trans Health (a health fair for transgendered individuals), which will be held on June 4-6, 2015.

7:33 Discussion Within the Pastoral Team of the Above Meeting

1. Pastor Lorie commented that individuals telling stories in-person would have a more powerful effect on people than print resources would be.
2. Pastor Lorie also felt that it would be valuable for both junior and senior youth to attend the event, as well as the adult Sunday school event afterward.
3. Laurie suggested asking Curio Theatre to use their downstairs space for the event.
4. It was also proposed that the event be followed by a discussion for junior and senior youth (either in youth Sunday school or as a youth activity) facilitated by staff of the Bryson Institute.

8:00 Follow-Up

1. Pastor Lorie discussed using Circle of Grace materials for child-protection training events this fall.
2. Mark reported that there were no *Our Whole Lives* facilitator training workshops for the youth Sunday school curriculum in this area any time soon. It was then suggested that we use the *Good Sex* Sunday school materials for a youth series on healthy sexuality, since Alex Esh-Bouwman had taught the curriculum with our youth previously, and was pleased with the outcome.
3. The selection of a delegate to represent our congregation at the Mennonite Church USA convention in Kansas City this summer was discussed.
4. The possibility of Pastor Lorie attending the same conference as a delegate representing Franconia Conference was also discussed.

8:40 Update from Julie Prey Regarding Credentials

1. The Pastoral Team discussed Julie Prey's plans to transfer her ministerial credentials out of Franconia Conference.