

Pastoral Team Minutes from July 24, 2018

Present: Pastor Lorie, Laurie Callan, Mark Michalovic, Ethan Tan, Sheldon Rich

*After opening prayer, met with Ariel Ressler, new small group coordinator. We discussed history of small groups at WPMF and congregational surveys, asking about small group interest, and starting new grps.

The Pastoral Team vision for small groups, is that small groups are healthy for congregational life and that they increase connections and spiritual growth for individuals involved. We believe that it is important to support the life and growth of small groups within the congregation.

Ariel will explore coordinating starting up 3rd Sunday small group, one that used potluck and was easy to invite guests/newcomers to.

She is interested in looking at a mixed age/intergenerational group, since groups have tended to fall into people of similar stages in life. Pastoral team supports and is interested in this idea.

Ariel plans to connect with the existing groups and make her position known in the congregation, in the fall.

*Discussed Journey Forward study from MC USA, as sent to elders in email. There was difficulty accessing it by some of the team.

**All elders will look at the study in the next two weeks and give feedback by email to Pastor Lorie, with an eye towards how this might be used within our church life, whether through small groups or Adult S.S. **How do we, as elders, see us as a congregation, engaging the renewed commitments documents and study guide?

Pastor Lorie was asked to do a reflection for Mennonite USA's blog, in August, to reflect on how these renewed commitments, listed in the document, are being lived out within our congregation, and the broader church, as well, as individually.

*Continued discussion we have touched on in the past, at Pastoral Team meetings, around the issue of having a sexual ethics conversation, as a pastoral team, as well as with the broader congregation. We agreed that it is another step in our discussions on healthy sexuality and the church, that we began in our discerning process, before becoming a welcoming congregation.

We will continue this conversation at our next meeting.

*Took time to share Pastoral Concerns and pray.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 28th, 7pm in church office.

Future Agenda items:

1. Ministry group check-in for new elder team.
2. Check team understandings and make any necessary changes.
3. Follow-up on parenting workshop...next steps.
4. Continue discussion about Sexual Ethics conversation.
5. Continue discussion about Journey Forward study, if necessary.

Minutes by Laurie Callan