

WPMF Pastoral Team Minutes – July 10, 2019

Present: Lorie Hershey, pastor; Ethan Tan, elder; and Mark Michalovic, elder

Prayer and Centering

Discussion of a Training from Project HOME

It has been proposed that we invite Carolyn Couch-Robinson of Project HOME to give a 90-minute presentation to the congregation on how to best be welcoming of persons with mental illnesses. The presentation would be open to the congregation, but worship leaders, song leaders, preachers, ushers, greeters, and Sunday school teachers would be especially encouraged to attend. The presentation would most likely be given in the fall on a Sunday at around noon, with a simple lunch and child care provided. Mark agreed to contact Carolyn Crouch-Robinson about possible dates, about possible compensation for her time.

Safety Training for Building Users

Stefan Lynch, head of Kol Tzedek's task force on security has contacted WPMF leadership about cooperating with Kol Tzedek in safety training of various sorts, including fire safety, first aid, and active shooter response training. The last of these was discussed at length, and the issue was raised of possible conflict between traditional Mennonite positions on non-violence and some conventional active shooter response practices that could involve violence. Pastor Lorie agreed to contact Stefan Lynch to arrange further conversation between Kol Tzedek's task force on security and WPMF leadership.

In addition, conversations will continue among WPMF leadership, the CCCC board, and and Calvary UMC trustees on the matter of fire safety in the Calvary building.

Public Address System Training for Calvary Users

Since our last meeting Amanda talked with the Deacons about the sound issues during worship that were brought to our attention. Deacons are following up, working on any adjustments that can be made, and have been in touch with one of the people who had difficulty hearing during services. At recent Calvary Trustee/Advisory Team meeting, Sheldon reported that Kol Tzedek is having similar issues and has made contact with a sound engineer for evaluation. The Trustees also had the idea of scheduling a Calvary-led training for the sound system users. We will wait to hear more about both of those ideas and in the meantime continue supporting the Deacons.

Real-Time Captioning During Services

Ethan demonstrated how the Google Translator application can convert audible speech into written-text captioning in real-time, and proposed implementing this technology for the benefit of attendees with hearing loss. Implementation would require a desktop computer and monitor positioned where it could easily be seen by the person or person desiring captioning during a service. It was decided to investigate the use of this technology further.

Introductory Video About WPMF for Allegheny Conference

A video is currently under production which is aimed at providing a brief introduction of our congregation to the people of the other congregations of Allegheny Mennonite Conference. It was agreed that this video should be no longer than two minutes in length.

Ideas for Unfilled Positions

It was decided that elders could spend time thinking of people who might be good candidates to suggest to HRC for filling the positions of Youth Advisor (one person to be part of a team) Adult Education Coordinator, Mentor Coordinator, and Small Group Coordinator. It was also suggested that the the coordination of adult education could possibly be carried out by a team, similar to the team of Youth Advisors, rather than by a single individual.

Pastoral Needs Database

There is a need to keep track of individuals and families in the congregation with ongoing pastoral care needs. Ethan suggested exploring whether it would be possible to update and use a Microsoft Access database that WPMF used in years past. Lorie will follow up on that. s.

Pastoral Care and Prayer

Next Meeting

A date of August 20 was proposed for the next Elder Meeting.