

Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren
Congregational Business Meeting – Sunday, May 16, 2021

Note: Bring this packet with you to the Council Meeting. Meeting starts at 11:45am.

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Devotions ~ Pastor Mary Etta
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Approval of Congregational Business Meeting Minutes
 - A. November 15, 2020 pg. 2-3
- V. Treasurer's Report pg. 4-9
- VI. For Information Only
 - A. Membership Report pg. 9
 - B. Church Board Minutes ~ April 19, 2021 pg. 10-12
 - C. Executive Board Minutes ~ April 19, 2021 pg. 12
- VII. Old Business - None
- VIII. New Business
 - A. Elections – Affirmation of Church Officer/District Conference Delegates pg. 12
- IX. Reports
 - A. Church Board Reports
 - 1. Ministry pg. 13
 - 2. Nurture pg. 13
 - 3. Property pg. 14
 - 4. Stewards pg. 14
 - 5. Witness pg. 14
 - B. Children's Outreach Ministries Board Report pg. 15-16
 - C. Committee Reports
 - 1. Executive pg. 16
 - 2. Deacon pg. 16
 - 3. Financial Review Committee pg. 16
 - 4. Memorial pg. 17
 - 5. Children's Worship pg. 17
 - 6. Family Ministry Team/Transition Team pg. 18
 - D. Fellowships
 - 1. Men's pg. 17
 - 2. Women's pg. 17
 - 3. ROOTS – Preschool – 5th grade pg. 19
 - 4. ROOTS – Jr. High & Sr. High pg. 19
 - 5. ROOTS - Young Adults pg. 20
 - E. Pastoral Staff
 - 1. Pastor Bob Kettering pg. 20-21
 - 2. Pastor Mary Etta Reinhart pg. 22
 - 3. Pastor Rita Carter pg. 23
- X. Additional Items of New Business (added at Council)
- XI. Opportunities to Share
- XII. Prayer ~ Steve Grosh
- XIII. Adjournment

Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren, Congregational Council Meeting
Sunday, November 15, 2020 ~ 7:30 pm

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Dave Nichols. There were 82 people in attendance. Jenn Berkey, Chair of Nurture, led us in devotions.

Moderator Dave Nichols amended the agenda to add Rita Carter's ordination. Hearing no objections, the agenda stands as printed and amended.

November 6, 2019 Congregational Council Meeting were approved, hearing no objections.

Treasurer's report was approved as printed and will be filed for future audit. Membership Report, Church Board Minutes from October 20, 2020, and Executive Committee Minutes from October 20, 2020 were shared for informational purposes.

There was no old business, so we proceeded with new business.

2021 MGCB Budget: Ken Herr, Stewards Chair presented the 2021 Budget. Moderator Dave Nichols asked for a motion to approve the budget as presented. ***Mike Mauger made a motion to approve the church budget. The motion was seconded by Phil Hershey.*** A question was asked regarding including pastoral salaries when currently we don't have a pastor. The reply given was that we will likely have an interim, so although we likely won't account for all those costs, we need to keep those lines items, and this is the budget approved by Church Board. ***Motion passed 55-5.***

COM Budget: Children's Outreach Ministries has their own board but is accountable to the church. ***Clarence Wenger made a motion to approve the 2021 COM Budget. The motion was seconded by Glenn Carter. The motion passed unanimously.***

Affirmation of Church Officers: Correction to the ballot: Glenn & Rita Carter should be listed as Annual Delegates for 2021 (not 2022). (Because 2020 Annual Conference was not held due to Covid, terms have been pushed back. Jim & Deb Krantz will serve in 2022). Terms of those listed with an asterisk will not be eligible for reelection again. Ministry Commission had a late resignation and has an empty slot. Ballots were distributed and collected.

Confirmation of Deacons: The ballot was distributed and collected.

Vote to Relicense Josiah Reimold: Ballots were distributed and collected.

Vote to Ordain Rita Carter: Ballots were distributed and collected. Results will be reported to the District.

Hearing no need to discuss the Petition for Confidence Vote, we moved on to the next item in the agenda.

Church Board/Commission Reports

- Church Board – no additional comments.
- Ministry Commission – Phil Hershey presented an update to the report listed in the agenda. Moving forward, Mary Etta Reinhart, Pastor for Congregational Care, will lead us during this time of transition. She will work closely with Rita Carter (Pastor of Visitation), Tina Herr, Lori Holzhauser, and Ministry Commission. Pete Kontra will be with us on January 10 to offer some comments and to facilitate Rita Carter's ordination. Preachers have been found through the end of January. The newly elected Ministry

Commission will move forward with hiring an interim pastor, once they begin meeting in January. Ministry Commission will seek to keep the congregation informed.

- Nurture Commission – Jenn Berkey presented an update that the youth and young adult transition team is in place. Dave and Lori Holzauer will be leading this team.
- Property Commission – Eric Holzauer commented that Property Commission needs a 5th person to serve on this commission.
- Stewards Commission – No additional comments.
- Witness Commission – Mike Mauger expressed thanks to the congregation.

Committee Reports

- Executive Committee – No additional comments.
- Deacon Board – No additional comments.
- Memorial Committee – No additional comments.
- Financial Review Committee – No additional comments.
- Children’s Worship Committee – No additional comments.

Children’s Outreach Ministries Board Report – No additional comments.

Fellowship/Ministry Reports

- Men’s Work – No additional comments.
- Women’s Ministry – No additional comments.
- Junior High & Senior High – No additional comments.
- Young Adult – No additional comments.

Pastoral Staff

- Pastor Mary Etta, Pastor for Congregational Care – No additional comments.

Opportunity to Share

- Philip and Sheri Johnson are looking to meet with young adults (approximate ages 18-29) following the Thanksgiving Eve service. They are also looking to update contact information for this age group.
- Steve Grosh and Dave Nichols met with Pete Kontra (Atlantic Northeast District Executive). Following Pete’s council, we will be looking for a long-term interim (2 years, or longer) from outside the congregation. Pete has a person in mind for this position and if asked to serve, this person wants a Congregational Council Meeting to affirm his placement at Mechanic Grove. (Although not typical, Pete advises that this is appropriate in the circumstances). This person would also ask for a second interim staff person to be brought on, due to the size of our congregation.
- Dave Nichols thanked those who have served on positions during the 2020 year. It has been a difficult year, with more meetings than usual.

Mary Etta closed the meeting in prayer. A motion was made by Doris Snyder and seconded by Dan Hershberger to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheri Johnson, Church Clerk

MECHANIC GROVE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
PROFIT & Loss Budget Performance

		Mar 21	Jan - Mar 21	Annual Budget	
	Beginning Balance	76,623.03	39,712.46		
	INCOME				
4000 · CONTRIBUTIONS					
	400101 · GENERAL FUND OFFERING	31,131.46	117,427.85	491,775.00	17.55%
	4010 · SPECIAL OFFERINGS				
	401101 · CHRISTMAS OFFERING-001	0.00	1,000.00	17,000.00	5.88%
	401201 · ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING-001	6,996.00	7,996.00	11,000.00	9.09%
	401301 · MISSION OFFERING-001	0.00	1,000.00	12,100.00	8.26%
	401401 · THANKSGIVING OFFERING-002	0.00	1,000.00	5,000.00	20.00%
	Total 4010 · SPECIAL OFFERINGS	6,996.00	10,996.00	45,100.00	8.87%
	4020 · EARMARKED OFFERINGS				
	402401 · 2 CENT-A-MEAL	0.00	123.50	0.00	100.00%
	402501 · CHANGE FOR CHANGE FUND-002	138.00	188.00	0.00	100.00%
	402801 · MISC. EARMARKED GIFTS	4,046.00	28,221.00	0.00	100.00%
	402901 · BIRTHDAY/Benevolence	215.00	230.00	0.00	100.00%
	Total 4020 · EARMARKED OFFERINGS	4,399.00	28,762.50	0.00	100.00%
	Total 4000 · CONTRIBUTIONS	42,526.46	157,186.35	536,875.00	21.36%
	4040 · OTHER INCOME				
	404101 · FLC RENTAL INCOME	1,890.00	2,696.25	0.00	100.00%
	404201 · MESSENGER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
	Total 4040 · OTHER INCOME	1,890.00	2,696.25	0.00	100.00%
		44,416.46	159,882.60	536,875.00	21.51%
	Total Income	44,416.46	159,882.60	536,875.00	21.51%
	Expnese				
	5020 EARMARKED OFFERING				
	502901 BIRTHDAY /Benevolence	230.00	230.00	0.00	0.00%
	502501 CHANGE FOR CHANGE FUND	188.00	188.00	0.00	0.00%
	502401 2 CENT -A-MEAL	123.50	123.50	0.00	0.00%
	502801 MISC. EARMARKED EXP	28,190.00	28,190.00	0.00	0.00%
	Total 5020 EARMARKED OFFERING	28,731.50	28,731.50	0.00	0.00%
	5000 · GLOBAL OUTREACH - SPECIAL				
	500101 · CHRISTMAS OFFERING-002	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
	500201 · ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING-002	7,996.00	7,996.00	0.00	0.00%
	500301 · MISSION OFFERING-002	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
	500401 · THANKSGIVING OFFERING-001	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
	Total 5000 · GLOBAL OUTREACH - SPECIAL	7,996.00	7,996.00	0.00	0.00%
	5100 · GLOBAL OUTREACH - COMMITTED				
	510511 · ANE DISASTER BENEVOLENCE FUND	51.50	154.50	618.00	16.67%
	510101 · ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT	2,112.91	6,338.73	25,355.00	16.67%
	510201 · BETHANY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY	0.00	0.00	2,470.00	0.00%
	510401 · CAMP SWATARA	288.16	864.48	3,458.00	16.67%
	510501 · SEEDS OF FAITH ENDOWMENT	51.50	154.50	618.00	16.67%
	510601 · BOARD PROGRAM INITIATIVE	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
	Total 5100 · GLOBAL OUTREACH - COMMITTED	2,504.07	7,512.21	33,519.00	14.94%

		Mar 21	Jan - Mar 21	Annual Budget	
5700 · PROPERTIES COMMISSION					
5720 · SUPPLIES-002					
	572101 · JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	84.79	752.60	4,000.00	16.70%
	572201 · KITCHEN SUPPLIES	42.38	403.06	1,200.00	30.06%
Total 5720 · SUPPLIES-002		127.17	1,155.66	5,200.00	19.78%
5730 · REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE					
	573101 · BLDG REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	1,363.34	5,039.96	25,000.00	14.71%
	573201 · EQUIPMENT & FURNISHINGS	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00%
	573301 · LAWN SERVICE	0.00	0.00	3,500.00	0.00%
	573401 · EQUIPMENT REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
	573501 · DAY CARE MAINTENANCE	165.00	494.24	1,500.00	21.95%
	573601 · SNOW REMOVAL-002	400.00	1,635.00	1,600.00	77.19%
Total 5730 · REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE		1,928.34	7,169.20	36,600.00	14.32%
5740 · OTHER EXPENSES					
	574101 · TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES	39.24	39.24	1,000.00	0.00%
	574201 · LANDSCAPE UPGRADES	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
Total 5740 · OTHER EXPENSES		39.24	39.24	2,000.00	0.00%
Total 5700 · PROPERTIES COMMISSION		2,094.75	8,364.10	43,800.00	14.31%
5200 · STEWARDS COMMISSION					
5210 · INSURANCE					
	521101 · FIRE & LIABILITY INSURANCE	2,940.50	5,701.83	11,030.00	25.04%
	521201 · WORKERS COMPENSATION	1,044.64	2,014.38	5,000.00	19.40%
Total 5210 · INSURANCE		3,985.14	7,716.21	16,030.00	23.28%
5220 · UTILITIES					
	522101 · PROPANE - CHURCH	2,028.09	8,813.01	12,000.00	56.54%
	522201 · ELECTRIC	749.12	2,209.19	12,000.00	12.17%
	522301 · ELECTRIC - DAY CARE	129.57	465.45	1,800.00	18.66%
	522401 · TELEPHONE & INTERNET	577.72	1,733.16	8,500.00	13.59%
	522601 · HEATING OIL - DAYCARE	439.26	848.27	1,000.00	40.90%
Total 5220 · UTILITIES		3,923.76	14,069.08	35,300.00	28.74%
5260 · EMERGENCY SERVICES					
	526101 · QUARRYVILLE FIRE COMPANY	800.00	800.00	800.00	0.00%
	526201 · LANCASTER EMS	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00%
Total 5260 · EMERGENCY SERVICES		800.00	800.00	900.00	0.00%
5270 · OTHER EXPENSES-002					
	527201 · OFFERING ENVELOPES	0.00	0.00	525.00	0.00%
	527301 · PAYROLL & TAX PREPARATION	76.14	330.49	1,400.00	0.00%
	527401 · MISCELLANEOUS - STEWARDS	6.00	209.09	800.00	25.39%
	527601 · COPY MACHINE LEASE-002	587.00	1,761.00	8,000.00	14.68%
Total 5270 · OTHER EXPENSES-002		669.14	2,300.58	10,725.00	12.84%
Total 5200 · STEWARDS COMMISSION		9,378.04	24,885.87	62,955.00	24.23%

			Mar 21	Jan - Mar 21	Annual Budget	
5300 · BOARD OF DEACONS						
	530101 · LOVE FEAST		0.00	0.00	700.00	0.00%
	530201 · SPIRITUAL RENEWAL SERVICE		0.00	0.00	550.00	0.00%
	530401 · DEACON MATERIALS		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
	530501 · SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCHEON		0.00	0.00	700.00	0.00%
	530601 · HEALTH & WELLNESS MINISTRY		0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00%
Total 5300 · BOARD OF DEACONS			0.00	0.00	2,150.00	0.00%
5400 · WITNESS COMMISSION						
5410 · LOCAL OUTREACH						
	WOW WEDNESDAY MEAL		130.96	193.51	1,400.00	4.47%
	BHA		0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
	541101 · SOLANCO NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRIE		0.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00%
	541201 · SOL. MINISTERIAL FUEL FUND		0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00%
	541301 · VERITAS		0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00%
	541401 · ADVERTISING		103.36	262.72	1,200.00	13.28%
	541501 · FLOWING OIL CAFE		0.00	0.00	400.00	0.00%
	541801 · BRETHREN HOUSING ASSN KIDS		0.00	0.00	400.00	0.00%
	541901 · COBYS		0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
Total 5410 · LOCAL OUTREACH			234.32	456.23	9,400.00	2.36%
5420 · GLOBAL OUTREACH						
	542301 · WITNESS PROJECTS		0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
	542701 · EMERGENCY DISASTER RELIEF		0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
Total 5420 · GLOBAL OUTREACH			0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00%
Total 5400 · WITNESS COMMISSION			234.32	456.23	11,400.00	1.95%
5500 · NURTURE COMMISSION						
5510 · EDUCATION MINISTRIES						
	551101 · BIBLE SCHOOL		0.00	0.00	1,300.00	0.00%
	551201 · CHILDREN'S CHURCH		0.00	26.85	300.00	8.95%
	553101 · CHILDREN'S BIBLES		0.00	0.00	600.00	0.00%
	553201 · DEVOTIONAL LITERATURE		0.00	59.50	250.00	23.80%
	553401 · LIBRARY		0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00%
	553501 · NURSERY EXPENSES		0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00%
	553701 · YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES		0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00%
	553801 · SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES		206.99	206.99	4,500.00	0.00%
Total 5510 · EDUCATION MINISTRIES			206.99	293.34	7,450.00	1.16%
5520 · NURTURE SCHOLARSHIPS						
	COM SCHOLARSHIPS		140.00	850.00	10,250.00	6.93%
	552101 · CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS		0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
	552701 · PEACE ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP		0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00%
	552801 · COBYS COUNSELING CENTER		0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00%
Total 5520 · NURTURE SCHOLARSHIPS			140.00	850.00	12,250.00	5.80%

	Mar 21	Jan - Mar 21	Annual Budget	
5540 · JR. & SR. HIGH YOUTH EXPENSES				
WORK CAMPS & RETREATS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
554101 · SR. HIGH NATIONAL YOUTH CONF.	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
554501 · WORKCAMP & RETREATS	0.00	120.00	1,600.00	7.50%
554601 · NATIONAL JR HIGH CONFERENCE	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
554901 · YOUTH EXPENSES	826.85	889.54	3,000.00	2.09%
Total 5540 · JR. & SR. HIGH YOUTH EXPENSES	826.85	1,009.54	6,600.00	2.77%
5550 · OTHER NURTURE EXPENSES				
PARENT TRAINING INITIATIVE	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00%
555901 · WOW OTHER	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00%
555201 · MISCELLANEOUS - NURTURE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
555401 · GRADUATION GIFTS	0.00	0.00	150.00	0.00%
555501 · CARE GROUPS	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00%
555601 · CHURCH PICNIC	0.00	0.00	350.00	0.00%
555701 · CHILDREN'S OUTREACH-MISC.	400.00	421.15	750.00	2.82%
555801 · VOLUNTEER CLEARANCES	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00%
Total 5550 · OTHER NURTURE EXPENSES	400.00	421.15	2,450.00	0.86%
Total 5500 · NURTURE COMMISSION	1,573.84	2,574.03	28,750.00	3.48%
5600 · MINISTRY COMMISSION				
INTERIM SR PASTOR				
INTERIM SR PASTOR HOUSING	1,600.00	2,400.00		
INTERIM SR PASTOR SALARY	5,066.00	7,599.00		
Total INTERIM SR PASTOR	6,666.00	9,999.00		
TEMPORARY PASTOR SPEAKERS				
TEMP PASTOR SPEAKERS SALARY	0.00	2,000.00		
Total TEMPORARY PASTOR SPEAKERS	0.00	2,000.00		
CUSTODIAL COMPENSATION				
CUSTODIAL IRA	500.00	500.00	2,000.00	0.00%
CUSTODIAL INSURANCE	377.77	1,133.31	4,389.00	23.81%
CUSTODIAL PAYROLL TAXES	196.50	589.50	2,822.00	0.00%
CUSTODIAL SALARY	2,713.48	8,140.44	35,275.00	0.00%
Total CUSTODIAL COMPENSATION	3,787.75	10,363.25	44,486.00	2.35%
5560 · YOUTH & YA PASTOR COMPENSATION				
Y & YA PASTOR PROFESS GROWTH	0.00	0.00	750.00	0.00%
556101 · Y & YA PASTOR SALARY	0.00	3,633.00	39,643.00	0.00%
556201 · Y & YA PASTOR HOUSING	0.00	784.62	18,000.00	0.00%
556301 · Y & YA PASTOR PENSION	0.00	588.97	6,917.00	0.00%
556401 · Y & YA PASTOR INSURANCE	-2,441.77	69.43	11,721.00	23.81%
Total 5560 · YOUTH & YA PASTOR COMPENSATION	-2,441.77	5,076.02	77,031.00	3.62%
5610 · SENIOR PASTOR COMPENSATION				
SENIOR. PASTOR PROFESS. GROWTH	0.00	0.00	750.00	0.00%
561101 · SENIOR PASTOR SALARY	0.00	7,875.42	51,171.00	0.00%
561201 · SENIOR PASTOR HOUSING	0.00	1,776.92	22,000.00	0.00%
561301 · SENIOR PASTOR PENSION	0.00	1,525.98	8,781.00	0.00%
561401 · SENIOR PASTOR INSURANCE	1,389.72	3,619.35	11,674.00	23.81%
Total 5610 · SENIOR PASTOR COMPENSATION	1,389.72	14,797.67	94,376.00	2.95%
5620 · ASSOC PASTOR COMPENSATION				
562201 · ASSOC PASTOR HOUSING	0.00	0.00		
562301 · ASSOC PASTOR PENSION	0.00	0.00		
562401 · ASSOC PASTOR INSURANCE	0.00	0.00		
Total 5620 · ASSOC PASTOR COMPENSATION	0.00	0.00		

		Mar 21	Jan - Mar 21	Annual Budget	
5625 · CHILDREN'S PROGRAM AD. COMP					
	COM ADMIN INSURANCE - WASH	2,274.59	6,823.77	0.00	100.00%
	562601 · CHILDREN PROGRAM ADMIN SALARY	2,629.24	7,887.72	16,747.00	0.00%
	562701 · CHILDREN PROGRAM ADMIN TAXES	187.38	562.14	1,368.00	0.00%
Total 5625 · CHILDREN'S PROGRAM AD. COMP		5,091.21	15,273.63	18,115.00	27.10%
5630 · CLERICAL COMPENSATION					
	563101 · CLERICAL SALARY	2,376.00	7,160.00	29,967.00	0.00%
	563201 · CLERICAL PAYROLL TAXES	181.78	547.74	2,397.00	0.00%
	563301 · CLERICAL PENSION	-95.04	-286.40	3,596.00	0.00%
Total 5630 · CLERICAL COMPENSATION		2,462.74	7,421.34	35,960.00	0.00%
5635 · MUSIC COORDINATOR COMP.					
	563601 · MUSIC COORDINATOR SALARY	0.00	1,224.00	10,609.00	0.00%
	563701 · MUSIC COORDINATOR TAXES	0.00	93.66	849.00	0.00%
Total 5635 · MUSIC COORDINATOR COMP.		0.00	1,317.66	11,458.00	0.00%
5640 · PROFESSIONAL GROWTH					
	LAY MINISTRY WORSHOPS	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
	564201 · CLERICAL PROFESSIONAL GROWTH	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00%
	564301 · SEMINARY SCHOLARSHIPS	0.00	0.00	900.00	0.00%
	564401 · STAFF & VOLUNTEER WORKSHOPS	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
Total 5640 · PROFESSIONAL GROWTH		0.00	0.00	3,100.00	0.00%
5650 · SUPPLIES & EXPENSES					
	PRAYER/WORSHIP MATERIALS	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00%
	PICTORIAL DIRECTORY	0.00	0.00	325.00	0.00%
	HOSPITALITY/REFRESHMENTS	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00%
	WEBSITE/DATA BASE	81.16	181.16	825.00	12.12%
	PRAISE TEAM	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
	566501 · PASTORAL PROFESSIONAL EXPENSE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
	565101 · PASTOR'S MILEAGE	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00%
	565201 · OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,375.25	1,418.99	4,000.00	1.09%
	565301 · POSTAGE	653.06	1,040.05	2,500.00	15.48%
	565401 · ANNUAL CONF. DELEGATE EXPENSES	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00%
	565501 · FLOWER/WORSHIP CENTER	0.00	-0.50	500.00	-0.10%
	565701 · MUSIC	0.00	125.00	1,500.00	8.33%
	565801 · TELEPHONE CHURCH DIRECTORIES	682.00	682.00	750.00	0.00%
	565901 · HANDBELL MAINTENANCE	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00%
	566001 · SPECIAL MINISTRIES/EVENTS	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00%
	566101 · COB MINISTRY ASSISTANCE FUND	0.00	0.00	125.00	0.00%
	566201 · DISTRICT CONF. DELEGATE EXPENS	0.00	0.00	250.00	0.00%
	566401 · MISCELLANEOUS	0.00	600.00	1,000.00	60.00%
Total 5650 · SUPPLIES & EXPENSES		2,791.47	4,046.70	24,175.00	5.19%
Total 5600 · MINISTRY COMMISSION		19,747.12	70,295.27	308,701.00	4.18%
Total Expense		72,259.64	150,815.21	491,275.00	8.26%
End of Month Balance		48,779.85	48,779.85	45,600.00	0

	Mar 21	Jan - Mar 21		
Beginning Balance Building Maint. Fund	57,678.21	71,500.21		
contributions	5,204.00	6,463.00		
expenditures	14,288.38	29,369.38		
Ending Balance Building Maint. Fund	48,593.83	48,593.83		
Balances:				
General Church Fund	48,779.85			
Building Maintenance Fund	48,593.83			
Challenger Kitchen Fund	962.25			
Memorial Fund	4,195.00	Ruth Ann Wood	1,955.00	
		Cindy Bollinger	1125	
		Mim Krantz	1115	
Women's Ministry	8,202.49			
Benevolence Fund	12,849.25			
Organ Fund	0.00			
Investment	21,511.83			
Everence Account (105,123.44) 7/20	121,255.61			

COUNCIL REPORT MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Total Membership as of October 31, 2020

462

Added by letter of transfer- none

Added by baptism - none

Loss by letter of separation

Chris Casadonti 10/30/2020
 Kat Casadonti 10/30/2020
 Nick Casadonti 10/30/2020

Loss by letter of transfer

Dwight Herr 4/21/2021
 Sharon Herr 4/21/2021

Loss by death

Albert Pyle 12/15/2020
 Ruth Ann Wood 12/15/2020
 Cindy Bollinger 1/21/2021
 Miriam Krantz 1/27/2021
 Nelda Harnish 3/12/2021

Total Membership as of April 30, 2021

452

Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren
Church Board Minutes
April 19, 2021

The church board met in the catacombs with 30 members present in-person. The meeting was called to order by Derrick Kreider, Board Chair. Derrick opened with prayer.

Tonight's agenda was approved.

The minutes from the March 8, 2021 Board meeting were corrected to reflect correct receipts and payments in Treasurer's Report. Minutes were approved as corrected.

The Treasurer's report shows a beginning balance 3/1/21 of \$63,482.65, receipts (+) at \$57,556.84 and payments (-) at \$72,259.64, with an ending balance of \$48,779.85.

Commission Reports:

Steward Commission – Tammy Wood

- Second PPP Loan applied and approved for \$50,650.00
- Two people appointed to Financial Review Committee
 - Mary Etta Reinhart and Bill Guhl
- Reviewing different health insurance plans

Witness Commission – Bobbie Davis

- Flowing Oil was cancelled for 2021. Need to keep this program in our prayers.
- Blanket Sunday (Mother's Day)
- Discussed appointments
- MGCB was listed as "Cream of the CROP" for our involvement with CROP Walk.

Ministry Commission – Clarence Wenger

- If a holiday falls on a Saturday, the church will be closed on Friday. If a holiday falls on a Sunday, the church will be closed on Sunday following.
- Ministry Commission will establish consistency among non-pastoral staff contracts and will develop a personnel handbook.

Nurture Commission – Ed Reinhart

- Reviewed Child Protection Policy update process
- Family Night
- Church Picnic – Southern End Sunday
- Peace Essay scholarship
- Child Check-in Kiosk process
- Minister of Music concert in November
- Will begin taking Sunday School attendance again

Property Commission – Glenn Carter

- New carpeting in gathering area being done currently. Hopefully will be completed by Saturday.
- Possibility of Prom renting tables/chairs

- Possible Memorial Garden to be created for cremations. Road from shed to Memorial Garden would be completed on edge of church/cemetery property to include 4 parking spots which would be on church property. Cemetery association would pay for this at no cost to church. Cemetery association would be responsible to maintain this area.
- This coming Saturday is church cleanup.

Reports:

COM – Gayle Hershberger

- Preschool enrollment – 66
- Primary Program – 9
- Childcare – full
- Summer CLASP still on Covid restrictions, so lower numbers than usual

Deacons – Mike Mauger

- Deacon Training this coming Sunday with Pastor Bob

Moderator – Steve Grosh

- Thanks Bob Kettering for his leadership and his sermons on the I Am series

Old Business

- Vacancies – Gifts Discernment Committee
 - o Jim Krantz is willing to serve – Clarence Wenger made a motion and Ed Reinhart seconded the motion to have Jim fill the vacancy on this committee. Approved unanimously.
- Mechanic Grove’s 125th Anniversary in 2022
 - o Doris Snyder, Denise Young, Lucille Wenger, Peggy Osborne, and Dave Nichols have begun meeting and discussing plans. This committee is requesting funds from Ministry Commission’s special events line item for next year.

New Business

- Church Employee Financial Compensation – Ministry Commission makes a motion that any financial compensation given to staff, must first go through Ministry Commission for approval and then to Church Board before the disbursement of funds. Seconded by Bobbie Davis. Motion passed unanimously.
- Outdoor Services – Ministry Commission makes a motion based on feedback from members that we continue the usual two service, indoor worship format with 3 combined outdoor services on May 30, June 27, and August 29 with the outdoor services at 9:30 with Sunday School following. Seconded by Bill Guhl. Motion passed unanimously.
- Part-time Summer Intern – Ministry Commission makes a motion to hire Josiah Reimold for a part-time summer intern, working with the youth and young adults for summer 2021, not to exceed \$2000 salary. Seconded by Herb Kreider. Motion passed unanimously.

Pastor Remarks – Bob Kettering

- Has been preaching every Sunday. There will be opportunities for other pastors to preach throughout the summer and fall.
- Bob has been impressed with the response for worship leaders, storytellers, etc.
- He has begun some in-person visits.
- We have begun the prayer/praise sheet that is available on Sundays.

Pastor Remarks – Mary Etta Reinhart

- Mary Etta is enjoying her new position and has been spending time with prayer ministry on zoom.
- She enjoyed working on Pandemic stories book. This can be used as an outreach to our community.
- Mary Etta is working on COM space usage and is looking for donations to build cabinets in downstairs Sunday School rooms so CLASP can put away their materials so Sunday School classes can use the rooms on Sunday.

Pastor Remarks – Rita Carter

- Has started some in-person visits.

Derrick reminded Church Board representatives to give Tina reports for Council Meeting. Philip Johnson closed the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheri Johnson, Church Clerk

**Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren
Executive Committee
April 19, 2021**

The following executive committee members were in attendance: Stephen Grosh, Derrick Kreider, Philip and Sheri Johnson, Linda Bledsoe, Ed and Mary Etta Reinhart, Tammy Wood, Rita Carter, Gayle Hershberger, Clarence Wenger, Bob Kettering and Bobbie Davis. Derrick Kreider, Church Board Chair, opened the meeting with prayer.

The agenda was set for the Congregational Business Meeting on May 16, 2021 at 11:45.

The meeting was closed by Derrick Kreider.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheri Johnson, Church Clerk

**Gifts Discernment Committee: 2021 Spring Business Meeting Slate
Affirm by checking line beside individual's name**

Stewards Commission – fulfillment of open term Dave DeLong – 2021

District Conference Delegates – fulfillment of open positions

2021/2022

Doris Aument

2021/2022

Jim Showalter

2021/2022

Cinda Showalter

COUNCIL REPORT MINISTRY COMMISSION

- Hired Bob Kettering as full-time interim senior pastor until May 1, 2021. After May 1, 2021, he will work 3/4 time for the remaining 9 months.
- We are rejoicing, along with the entire congregation on Rita Carter's ordination February 21
- Hired Rita Carter as part-time Pastor of Visitation starting Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 16 hours per week at a salary of \$14,418.
- Hired Mary Etta Reinhart as Associate Pastor, interim part-time for 16 hours a week at a salary of \$15,360 starting February 9, 2021.
- Authorized the purchase of a new office computer for \$774.13.
- Services this summer: Will continue with 8:15 and 10:30 services indoors except for 3 outdoor services. The outdoor services will be held on May 30, June 27, and August 29. These three are combined services beginning at 9:30 a.m. with Sunday School following. The outdoor services will also be livestreamed.
- Recommended hiring of Josiah Reimold as part-time interim for the summer to work with youth and young adults. Approved by the Board.
- Postponed pictorial directory until this fall.
- Set holiday policy if the holiday falls on a weekend. If the holiday falls on a Saturday, the church office will be closed on the Friday before the holiday. If the holiday falls on a Sunday, the church office will be closed the Monday following the holiday. (July 5, December 28 and 31 for 2021.)
- Presently working on establishing consistency among staff contracts which includes pastors, church administrative staff, music coordinator, COM administrator, custodial personnel and any other additional staff that may be employed by MGCOB.
- Working on an employee handbook for non-pastoral staff.

Respectfully submitted, Clarence Wenger, Ministry Commission Chair

COUNCIL REPORT NURTURE COMMISSION

- Expanded the number of grades of children receiving Bibles in Apr. & May.
- Completed COM appreciation.
- Distributed Guidepost "A prayer for every need" booklet to the membership.
- Put the peace essay into motion for 2021.
- Further delayed A.L.I.C.E. training again until things open a bit more.
- Approved adult Sunday school elective for the summer being led by Bob.
- Continued to evaluate and reevaluate Sunday school times and venues during this strange time.
- Approved turning Bible school into 3 family nights this summer with a church picnic in late August. Details to follow.
- Continued to work with COM on prospective room improvements, and reviewed expectations of room clean-up procedures.
- Refreshed Youth travel permission slips.
- Developed an online education for those who have clearances to be educated on the updates to the Childhood Protection Policy.

Ed Reinhart, Nurture Commission Chair

COUNCIL REPORT PROPERTY COMMISSION

- We had Alan Platt insulate the wall above the ceilings of all outside offices because of condensation leaking into Pastor Bob Kettering's office and various other repairs throughout the church.
- Thanks to everyone who helped with the spring clean-up and to Brent Grumbling and Hans Herr for bring the mulch.
- A new Rooftop unit quit working for the FLC over the winter and we installed a new 15-ton unit and two new thermostats in the FLC.
- New carpet was installed in the gathering area of the church.
- We received a Grant to help cover part of the cost to install new Audio equipment in the balcony area in order to enhance quality of our Zooming service.
- I would finally like to thank the property commission personnel, Sharon, Ed, Tina, Aliza, and all others I have the pleasure dealing with within the church while serving as Property Chair.

Glenn Carter, Property Commission Chair

COUNCIL REPORT STEWARDS COMMISSION

- Our commission reports the budget figures and monitors finances for the church
- Review all contracts with the various vendors, insurance, utilities, etc.
- Monitor giving in relationship to the church budget
- Weekly signing of checks and review of all bills submitted for payment.
- Applied for PPP Loan for COM - approved
- Applied for 2nd draft PPP Loan for COM – Linda completed paperwork, approved and received \$50,650 to COM for payroll.
- Applied Loan Forgiveness Application – Linda submitted new SBA Form for first draw forgiveness
- Appointed Financial Review Committee to serve – Mary Etta Reinhart (term 2021) and Bill Guhl (term 2023) will serve with Ken Rutt
- Everence Trust – Church Treasurer and Chair of Stewards names have been added to the account as authorized signers.
- Thanks to all the Stewards Commission members: Dan Hershberger, Amy Housekeeper, Bill Guhl and Treasurer, Linda Bledsoe.

Tammy Wood, Stewards Commission Chair

COUNCIL REPORT WITNESS COMMISSION

- Blanket Sunday will be held on Sunday, May 9.
- Wednesday meals started earlier this year and are being served on the nights that “Roots” have been meeting (1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month). We have been serving about 50 people each night.
- The Witness Commission is partnered with members of the Executive Committee and other church representatives to create a Social Media Policy.
- Mechanic Grove was to host the Flowing Oil Café Meal in April, however the meals have been cancelled for all of 2021. We should keep this ministry in our prayers as the coordinator recently left the organization.
- The commission is reviewing requests for donations. We have spent time discussing and praying about where we might be able to best serve the needs of our church, our community, and beyond.
- We are working towards presenting one mission moment each month.
- MGOB was designated as “Cream of the Crop” for its participation in the Solanco Crop Walk last Fall.

Bobbie Davis, Witness Commission Chair

COUNCIL REPORT

CHILDREN'S OUTREACH MINISTRIES BOARD

Mechanic Grove Christian Child Care, Wee Friends Preschool, Mechanic Grove Primary Program, Christian Love Around School Program (CLASP) and Christian Love All Summer Program (Summer CLASP)

Children's Outreach Ministries has slowly been recovering from the effects the COVID pandemic has had on our ministries. Not only did we suffer the loss of tuition for three months but when we reopened enrollment/tuition was drastically cut due to our need to follow masking protocol, social distance, as well as concern over the virus. In the past six months I have found some grants we qualified for, and we have received some federal funding. This along with the PPP Loan has been of some help. However, except for one ministry, we are still struggling to get back to where we were in enrollment and financially before the shutdown. A second PPP Loan has been taken out to help COM. The loan will cover our payroll for a few months and hopefully that will help meet some of our shortfalls. I still believe it will be at least 2022 before we are able to regain the enrollment numbers we once had.

Wee Friends Preschool, experienced a shock when in January we found out that our Director Sharon Godfrey was diagnosed with breast cancer. Because of COVID Sharon's doctors did not want her working in person for fear that she might contract the virus. Sharon has been able to conduct a good amount of her administrative responsibilities from home. I, along with the help of CLASP Director Tracy Frey, have stepped in to cover the day-to-day responsibilities. Thankfully, Sharon Godfrey was able to return to finish out the school year mid-April. Registration for 2021-22 started in February. We have had a good response and there are already more enrolled than what we currently have. However, our numbers are still only half of what we were prior to the COVID shutdown. There are usually many parents that register last minute, so I continue to pray we will get closer to our 2019-20 enrollment numbers. Due to continued regulations and restrictions, our plan is to have a virtual end of the year preschool program for our current school year. We did something similarly for our Christmas Program and it was well received by our families.

Our **Primary Program** (Kindergarten), taught by Sharon Godfrey was able to continue classes even with Sharon out for chemo treatments. In a way having to utilize Zoom for meetings during our COVID shut down wound up being a blessing, as it gave us the tools we needed for Sharon to hold class with the students virtually. Because the surrounding school districts were utilizing this virtual class method, it was not a strange idea when we presented it to our Primary parents. The children still came to our facility every day and had three aides working with them one on one in the classroom. When the idea of virtual learning was presented to the parents, they had the option of unenrolling or moving forward with classes in this new manner. The families unanimously agreed to go forward with the virtual learning wanting Sharon to continue teaching their children whatever that looked like. Sharon was able to teach for approximately one and a half to two hours daily. I observed this firsthand and watched as she presented the lessons and was able to see and hear the children to answer their questions or continue to hold separate smaller groups for intensive learning as needed. The three staff that were there in person with the children did an amazing job, and we do not believe that anyone fell behind or was hindered. In fact, some of the children made incredible strides during this time learning how to read and advancing from where they were prior to Sharon Godfrey having to leave. Enrollment for Primary also started in February. We currently have 9 enrolled with the promise of two more. We have never had this many students enrolled this early in the year, so I am hopeful that we will have a full class of 15 when the new school year starts.

Our **Child Care**, directed by Joan Cutler, is currently full to capacity at 27 children. This is the one ministry that has bounced back to where we were prior to COVID shut down. Some staff have decided not to return because of COVID, and we have recently had two staff members resign. New personnel are needed as soon as possible. Those that remain have been more than willing to put in additional hours until we are able to hire more people. We have a waiting list of families who would like to enroll at our facility, which gives me confidence that we will be able to maintain our numbers and stay where we need to be financially.

Our **CLASP** Program, directed by Tracy Frey, has also suffered in the way of enrollment. Some families chose not to return because they were doing virtual learning, others we lost because they moved away or aged out

of the program. We currently have a third of the enrollment we had. However even with the school year coming to an end, we still are getting a few new students. Tracy and I have been planning for **Summer CLASP**. Although many places remain closed, it seems we will be able to go back to more of a “normal” schedule holding at least one field trip a week. Prior to COVID we were doing two field trips a week with a day at Black Rock Retreat. Again, due to COVID we will not be able to continue our relationship with Black Rock this summer but have had a family offer their home and pool for us to go swimming weekly. Unfortunately, we have had to limit enrollment because due to state regulations we still need to have the children social distanced, and our space is limited. So instead of the 40 children we normally have we were only able to take 27. We are extremely grateful that we received that many children and pray next summer we will be able to have the programming and enrollment we had prior to COVID.

All our ministries continue to do their best to be flexible and have multiple plans to adjust with the ever-changing health environment. It continues to be a challenge. I am optimistic that in perhaps another year we will be back to the Children’s Outreach Ministries we were before March 2020 came upon us. God continues to open opportunities for us to serve and minister to the families of the Southern End. I am incredibly grateful for our three Directors who work diligently to make the most of this situation and provide outstanding quality care.

I wholeheartedly believe that God is working through COM ministries and we are trusting Him to carry us financially. Your prayers and support for our staff and children are coveted at this time.

Respectfully submitted, Aliza Kraynak, COM Administrator

COUNCIL REPORT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Since November, the Executive Committee has met four times. These meetings were used to revisit Covid-19 plans for the church, meet with Bob Kettering at the beginning of his interim ministry and discuss concerns with inconsistencies in church employee contracts. The most recent meeting was used to set the agenda for the spring council meeting.

Derrick Kreider, Executive Committee Chair

COUNCIL REPORT DEACON

- We currently have 19 Deacons.
Chair - Mike Mauger
Vice chair - Tracy Mauger
Secretary - Bobbi Davis
Ellie Holzhauser, Doris Snyder, Glenn and Lucille Wenger, Ed and Mary Etta Reinhart, Dennis and Glenda Findley, Brad Davis, Rick and Amy Graver, Kay Swarr, Rita Carter, Lars and Peggy Rasmussen, and Caitlyn Mauger.
- Held Pew Communion on March 21.
- Health and Wellness Committee is currently inactive. Will revisit again.
- Held Deacon Training on April 25.

Submitted by Mike Mauger - Deacon Chair

COUNCIL REPORT FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

- We have reviewed the general fund and COM books and found them to be accurate.

Ken Rutt, Bill Guhl, Mary Etta Reinhart

COUNCIL REPORT MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

- Officers and Members:
Linda Bolt, Chairperson
Carolyn Wenger, Secretary
Darlene Kreider
Esther Lloyd
- Memorial Book in Gathering Area:
We noticed dates of death are missing on some pages and some pages are out of order as to dates of death. We felt they should be oldest deaths to most recent. Darlene Kreider is working on this.
- Additional Pages needed in Memorial book for:
Willis Krantz, Eleanor Kreider, David Scheffel, Gerald Kreider, Bob Hershberger, Leta Hershberger, Ruth Ann Wood, Mim Krantz, Cindy Bollinger. Esther Lloyd will take care of creating these pages.
- Memorials to be Distributed:
Ruth Ann Wood (Undecided)
Mim Krantz (Designated for Wee Friends Pre-School)
Cindy Bollinger (Undecided)
- Something to think about:
Possibilities of burials, remembrances, etc. for persons who choose to be cremated.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Wenger, Memorial Committee Secretary

COUNCIL REPORT CHILDREN'S WORSHIP COMMITTEE

~ Now part of ROOTS Ministry, see the report on following pages.

COUNCIL REPORT MEN'S WORK

- The 2021 Disaster Relieve Picnic is scheduled on June 17, 2021 at the home of Allen Platt from 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM. **Eat in or Take Out.**
- S & A Kreider is supporting our corn project this year.
- Donation for COMB / Sunday School shelves given.

Respectfully submitted, Stephen Grosh - Secretary

COUNCIL REPORT WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

- As of November 2020, the Women's Commission has not facilitated any formal events. I hope to bring an online women's conference (intended for in-person or virtual participation) called IF: Gathering to our women in the end of the summer/early fall as a way to connect at the start of a Fall Quarter.

Janae McMichael, Conveyor

COUNCIL REPORT

FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM/TRANSITION TEAM

The Youth and Young Adult Transition Team made up of Dave and Lori Holzhauer, Karl and Sue Auker, Janae McMichael, Laurie O'Donnell, Eric & Morgan Holzhauer, Kerri Kreider and Amanda Grumbling read and reflected on the book "Sustainable Youth Ministry" as an initiative to rebuild and establish the youth and young adult programs at Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren. Through discussion and reflection, the team developed a vision for a comprehensive family ministry, serving our nursery-aged children to the young adults of the church.

The goals for the new Family Ministry program at Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren, now called "Roots" were shared in a spring church service and are outlined below.

The new Family Ministry program "Roots" was inspired by our "grove" of trees that identifies our church property well.

- The trees in the grove have **deep roots**, the Family Ministry program values Scripture as Roots, our primary focus.
- The trees in the Grove have **wide branches** that stretch high and wide. The Family Ministry program values reaching up, being a disciple of Jesus and reaching out, making disciples.
- The trees in the Grove **stand tall together**, likewise Family Ministry at Mechanic Grove will be made possible and most effective as a Whole Family, Whole Church program. Ministry for all ages, but on by all church members and pastors.
- And finally, the trees in the Grove have **stood the test of time**. Similarly, the Family Ministry program desires to honor Brethren practices and community traditions.
- We desire for our kids, youth and young adults, the same as Paul did for the church in Colossians "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 'rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.'" Colossians 2:6-7

Through regular meetings the Family Ministry team has continued to develop the core values listed above by organizing a curriculum schedule for all children and youth (see Table 1), designing curriculum for the upcoming quarter, researching other local churches Family, Youth and Children's Ministry structures and drafting an organizational chart and job description for the desired roles to support and make up the Mechanic Grove Family Ministry team.

We look forward to our continued efforts towards designing and implementing the "Roots" program!

Roots Curriculum Plan

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Winter (Dec-Feb) Central Theme: Jesus	Advent Attributes of God	Advent Miracles of Jesus	Advent Parables of Jesus	Advent Sermon on the Mount & Beatitudes
Spring (March-May) Central Theme: New Testament	Fruit of the Spirit Armor of God	Acts Church Roots	Paul's Letters	Revelation
Summer (June- Aug) Central Theme: Christian Living	Summer Olympics • Christian living	Spiritual Disciplines	Relationships & Evangelism	Foundations of Faith
Fall (Sept- Nov) Central Theme: Old Testament	Genesis (Torah: Genesis - Deuteronomy) • Creation • Joseph • Abe • Jacob	History (Joshua - Esther) Bible Heroes & Villains	Poetry/Wisdom (Job - Ecclesiastes) Psalm 23	Minor & Major Prophets

COUNCIL REPORT ROOT'S MINISTRY

Preschool - 5th Grade

Our children's ministry, which includes preschool-5th graders, resumed Sunday school on November 29, 2020. The children's Sunday school classes were broken down into several age groups: preschool (2 years-5), kindergarten, 1-2, and 3-5th grade. On average there were around 15-18 children attending Sunday school each week. In addition, a new format was established for children's Sunday school, in that the children all gather together by the stage in the basement for an opening that introduced the topic/theme for each week. The opening consisted of singing/dancing to worship songs, animated videos, and object lessons. The openings are 20-30 minutes, and for the remainder of the time they are with their respective age groups. The four Advent themes for December were Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. For the remainder of the winter quarter after Advent, the children learned about nine different attributes of God, continuing with the new format for Sunday school.

Our Wednesday night ministry began on February 3rd, with the children meeting two times a month. Each week the children would learn about a piece of the Armor of God. The children were greeted and checked in each night, and would engage in an interactive lesson, participate in games, and create crafts that would reinforce the lesson each week. Also, each Wednesday night the children left with a folder that had a worksheet or activity page for them to bring back the next week. Attendance at our Wednesday night ministry included eight volunteers, and around 20 children (which includes two children that do not regularly attend Mechanic Grove). Our Wednesday night ministry will continue in May and will wrap up on June 2nd with a recognition night & wrap-up party that will be held in the Grove. Our Lil' Roots have all received canvas backpacks that they can use to carry their folders and Bibles in, and they will be presented with an Armor of God pin to put on their bag at the recognition night.

For the spring quarter the children are learning about the Fruits of the Spirit in Sunday school. Another new addition to our Sunday school program is that once a month our youth lead our children in the Sunday school opener. What a blessing this has been to see our youth interact with the young children of the church, our Lil' Roots!

Respectfully submitted, Kerri Kreider

Sr. & Jr. High Report

Bible Studies:

- Advent Study
- Christmas Jeopardy
- Christmas experience
- Attributes of God Study
- Lesson prepping and then teaching the Children's Sunday School opening 1x a month
- How to read the Bible - Bible Study
- Glory Girls - Girls Bible Study
- Tailgate Talks - Boys Bible Study

Fun Activities:

- Christmas Party
- Church Photo Scavenger hunt
- Senior high Ski Retreat
- Junior High Black Rock Retreat Camp
- Bonfire & cornhole tournament
- Kickball Game

- Game nights in FLC
- Slick Willy's High-Speed Go- Karts
- Jr High Bowling

Service Projects:

- Food Bank shopping & delivery to Solanco Neighborhood Ministries
- Power washing a home (Love INC Request)
- National Youth Sunday
 - We are the Church
- Lasagna dinner fundraiser

Respectfully submitted, Morgan Holzhauer

Young Adult Report

A Young Adult Ministries team consisting of Philip and Sheri Johnson and Mike and Tracy Mauger, with guidance from Bob Kettering, have begun working on plans for some Young Adult activities over the summer. We are currently in the process of contacting the young adults of the congregation and their parents to get current contact information for the young adults. We are also looking forward to having Josiah Reimold assist us with our efforts over the summer, and also hope to be adding another couple to the team.

Respectfully submitted, Philip Johnson

COUNCIL REPORT INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

I started to serve the Mechanic Grove Church as the full-time interim senior pastor on February 1. At that time, I shared my personal four-fold philosophy of ministry which is:

- >enthuse the church
- >encourage the saints
- >enlist the gifts
- >enlarge the disciples

As a church you have come through some very challenging and discouraging times over the past year. This is something we cannot deny or ignore. There were some broken relationships, hurt feelings and unkind words expressed which is very unfortunate. While there is still healing which needs to take place within the body, I am excited to see the ways the Lord is working in our midst to move us forward. Later this year when we are all comfortable gathering in one place I would like to focus on ways to work at reconciliation and healing, forgiveness and forbearance and do that with an opportunity for anointing and spiritual renewal.

One of my first initiatives was to create a mission stimulus fund to help the Delmas Church of the Brethren in Haiti secure a location for their church building in Port-au-Prince. Several of you responded enthusiastically by donating your government stimulus checks for this fund which raised nearly \$30,000 toward the \$60,000 needed. Our efforts inspired the Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren to do a similar initiative and they will be sending \$25,000 to the Delmas Church. Praise God for helping us to be in mission with our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

One of the ways I have sought to encourage the saints is through the weekly pastoral letters which are sent out to all our members as a way to keep us connected even if we are not all assembling for worship. Those letters coupled with the sermon manuscripts and prayer sheets which are also sent out weekly seem to give everyone a feeling that we have a common bond with one another in keeping us informed and inspired. Thanks to Mary Etta for keeping the printed prayer and praise list updated and available for distribution along with the bulletin on Sunday mornings.

One of the joys I have experienced is the way people have agreed to take on tasks as we enlist the gifts. What a joy to have a whole list of people who agreed to tell the children's stories at both services each week and those who have agreed to serve as worship leaders and many others who are giving much time and effort in the Family Ministry Transitional Team and other tasks needed to further the ministries of our church. Praise God for the many talents and gifts you are willing to share.

I am presently teaching an Inquirers Class for six weeks and am anticipating new members and baptism taking place sometime in early summer. I will be teaching a summer elective Sunday school class in the Family Life Center beginning on June 6 with sessions related to the book 'Texts in Transit' which will focus on New Testament scriptures central to the Brethren and our understanding of the faith.

One of the first areas needing attention was building the pastoral staff. Rita Carter was ordained in February and called to be the Part-time Pastor of Visitation. Mary Etta Reinhart was called to the position of Part-time Interim Associate Pastor. Praise God for the dedication of these two sisters who join me in our pastoral team. We are hoping to have a part-time summer intern to work with our youth and young adults and are discerning what type of staffing we will need for family ministries at our church. I am part of a cohort group for Rachel Johnson as she anticipates being licensed to the ministry this Fall.

The next task is to reorganize and reenergize our deacons. I led a retreat on April 25 to set some new goals and a new organizational plan to help the deacons better accomplish their work. It is obvious that we will need to expand the number of deacons as we move forward in 2022.

Thanks to the efforts and expertise of Ed, we are able to live-stream our worship services and make them available on YouTube and Facebook. This will continue even when we 'get back to normal'.

Because of the COVID restrictions, visits during my first two months were restricted to phone calls. Now that I have been fully vaccinated, I have started in-home visits if people are comfortable having me visit in their homes. Visitation and pastoral care are high priorities for me. Please do not hesitate to call upon me if you desire a visit. I am always available to chat on the phone at any time.

My sermons focused on the 'I Am' sayings of Jesus in February, March and April. I will have sermons related to the Ascension of Jesus and Pentecost in May and then a series on 'Scriptural Stories from the High Seas' through June and then a series on the Beatitudes of Jesus into September. On May 30 I will be doing a monologue portraying 19th Century Brethren leader and martyr, John Kline, complete with a real horse portraying Kline's famous horse, Nell, for the combined outdoor service.

I am eager to strengthen the ties with our Children's Outreach Ministries and make a stronger connection with the families involved in these ministries. Mary Etta is serving as the pastoral staff liaison and I look forward to having a greater presence at orientation and identifying families without a church home.

I meet with the commissions, church board, executive committee and deacons at their regular meetings and other committees and teams as needed. I meet with the Solanco Pastor's Fellowship once a month and once a month with the Lancaster Area Brethren Pastor's Fellowship which I help coordinate. I also lead a weekly staff meeting on Monday mornings. I will be serving as an Annual Conference delegate from Mechanic Grove at this year's virtual Conference.

I continue with many groups beyond our church including president of the Mount Gretna Camp Meeting Bible Festival Board, chairing the Brethren World Mission Board, serving on the denominational Mission Advisory Board, chaplain to the Lancaster Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and singing with the Ministers of Music who will be giving a concert here on November 7.

On May 1 I will be moving to ¾ time as interim senior pastor but retaining the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings in the church office and working other times through my home office in Manheim. I am looking forward to more biking on area trails as the weather gets warmer.

I consider it a joy and privilege to serve as your interim pastor and working with such a competent staff and dedicated group of lay persons. May God be glorified in all we do.

~ Bob Kettering, Interim Senior Pastor

COUNCIL REPORT INTERIM PART-TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR

If there were one word I would use to describe the recent months of my ministry at Mechanic Grove, I would use the word “Change.” When I wrote my pastor’s report for the November 2020 Congregational Meeting, I was looking forward to ending my term serving as an interim pastor at Paxton CoB and looking forward to having a lot more leisure time and the opportunity to enjoy spending more time with my Mechanic Grove church family. Part of that expectation has worked out as I expected...I have indeed had the opportunity to spend more time with my Mechanic Grove church family. But I have not had the leisure time that I was expecting.

During the months of November, December, and January, I enjoyed the challenge of leading our congregation during the period of transition between lead pastors. With the help of all our capable staff at the church, we planned the Thanksgiving Eve service, the theme and worship services for Advent, and the Christmas Eve service with pew communion. We were also able to share the preaching schedule for Sunday mornings between myself and our Mechanic Grove licensed ministers. As I look back at those three months, I rejoice knowing that all the staff at Mechanic Grove worked together to move our congregation smoothly through the period of transition.

With the arrival of Bob Kettering as our interim senior pastor, I have transitioned to my new role as interim part time associate pastor. In this role I am continuing in the responsibilities I handled as the Pastor for Congregational Care (care groups and the deacon congregational care ministry). In addition, I am working more intentionally with the prayer ministry of the congregation and I am acting as a coordinator between our congregation and the Children’s Outreach Ministry.

Our care group ministry has been somewhat limited in recent months due to the current pandemic. The Monday morning Renovare Group and the Tuesday Evening Care Group have continued to meet via ZOOM. The Thursday morning women’s Bible study is currently meeting as well. My hope is that we can move forward and expand our care group ministry in the fall.

I have been working with Bob Kettering and our new deacon leadership, Mike and Tracy Mauger, as we work at defining the best way to use our deacon body in this congregation. I look forward to seeing how God will use our deacon body to serve our church family in the upcoming months.

Kay Swarr and I have been working together to promote the prayer ministry of our congregation. The weekly ZOOM prayer gatherings are a great opportunity for persons to gather to pray over the Prayer and Praise list from our Sunday morning worship as well as an opportunity for participants to share their own personal joys and concerns. In addition, I have also accepted the responsibility for sending out prayer requests and putting together the weekly Prayer and Praise list for our Sunday morning worship.

I also spent a significant amount of time in March helping to put together the Our Pandemic Stories devotional book that we are all reading between Easter and Pentecost. Many thanks to all who contributed to this meaningful effort. This book will be a blessing for all of us as we read and hear stories from others in our congregation.

I am now attending meetings with the C.O.M. board and talking with Aliza Kraynak to learn ways that we as a congregation can be helpful to the C.O.M. ministry. We took some time to tour the rooms in the church that are shared with C.O.M. and put together a list of the ways that we, as a church family, need to use those rooms that will be compatible with the way that C.O.M. uses those rooms. My goal is to make it possible for all of us to be good stewards of the spaces we have in this church building.

I look forward to finding new and meaningful ways to serve here at Mechanic Grove. It is a blessing to be a part of this church family. God is good!

***And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him,
who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28***

~ Mary Etta Reinhart, Interim Part-time Associate Pastor

COUNCIL REPORT PASTOR FOR VISITATION

The Mechanic Grove church as certainly went through changes this past year and the transition has been challenging. We experienced the departure of two full-time pastors and the arrival of a terrible pandemic. I became part of the team to help Mechanic Grove see through a period of time without a senior pastor.

I was finishing up my internships from Bethany Seminary. A part of my internship had been preaching occasionally at the Jennersville Church of the Brethren and the Wilmington Church of the Brethren. I also had the privilege of leading the service and provided the message at Mechanic Grove. During my internship, I approached my mentor with the feeling that because of all of the changes and the pandemic that members of the congregation were feeling neglected. Many were quarantined and unable to be with others, even members of their own family. I felt led to offer this to fill the void by taking on the responsibility of making phone calls and letting our congregation know they were not forgotten. I thought it important to let everyone that they were being cared for and prayed for.

I felt my calling is toward pastoral care. I began serving in this capacity in March 2020 when our church doors were closed due to the pandemic. At that time, only phone calls could be made. However, with the arrival of the vaccines and more people feeling comfortable, I have started in-person visits. My contacts change depending upon the needs of the congregation; however, I feel the reward for every contact I am able to make.

I was ordained in February 2020 and was officially given a part-time position as Pastor of Visitation shortly thereafter. I am in constant communication with the other pastoral staff to share joys and concerns from those I am in contact with. This has helped bring healing and unity to our congregation. I have received much feedback from members that these visits and phone calls are really appreciated. I have given all those I call my phone number and have invited them to call if they have a need.

As part of the pastoral staff, I attend regular staff meetings, board meetings and executive meetings and provide any input and updates concerning my visits and congregant needs. I am also a member of the benevolence committee and am a deacon. I am currently leading a Bible Study for our Care Group. I am also involved with the Office of Aging in helping an elderly member find a permanent care facility.

~ Rita Carter, Pastor of Visitation

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Council Notes