

# Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren Congregational Business Report - May 2020

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**Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren  
Fall Council Meeting, November 6, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Moderator David Nichols. There were 84 people in attendance. Pastor Misty Wintsch led us in devotions and prayer.

Moderator David Nichols asked for a motion to approve the agenda. *Mike Mauger made a motion to approve the agenda as printed. Seconded by Loren Bucher, Jr. Motion passed.*

Moderator David Nichols asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2019 congregational council meeting. *Bob Wintsch made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2019 congregational council meeting as printed. Seconded by Glenn Carter. Motion passed.*

Treasurer's report was approved as printed and will be filed for future audit.

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

- 2020 Budget: Moderator David Nichols then asked for a motion to approve the budget as presented. Ken Rutt made a motion to accept the 2020 budget as presented. Seconded by Mike Mauger. After much discussion about COBYS, and sharing an excerpt of a letter from Mark Cunningham, Moderator Nichols called for a motion to amend the budget. Darlene Kreider made a motion to amend the budget by removing all COBYS line items from the budget and placing a basket twice a year for those who wish to support them to do so. Seconded by Sharon Herr. Moderator Nichols called for a vote on the amendment by show of hands. Aye 22, Nay 45. Motion defeated. Pastor Misty Wintsch then had prayer. Motion passed as originally presented.
- COM Budget: Children's Outreach Ministries has their own board and are accountable to the church. *Vince Becker made a motion to approve the COM budget as presented. Seconded by Loren Bucher, Jr. Motion passed.*

Election of Church Leaders:

Confirmation of Deacons: The ballot was presented, then distributed and collected.

Vote to Relicense Robert Wintsch, Jeffrey Keller and Rita Carter: Ballots were distributed and collected.

Election of Church Officers: Moderator David Nichols gave instructions on voting. Ballots were distributed and collected.

Reports:

- Church Board:
- Ministry: Nothing to add
- Nurture: Jenn Berkey shared that if you have ideas for Sunday school material, please let a member of the commission know.
- Property: Ceiling is being addressed and is in the process of being fixed.
- Stewards: Ken Rutt asked that we please read through the report in the packet.
- Witness: Mike Mauger thanks Herb Kreider for all his help on the commission.

Children's Outreach Ministries: Nothing to add

Committee:

- Executive: Nothing to add
- Deacon: Nothing to add
- Memorial: Nothing to add
- Financial: Nothing to add
- Children's Worship: Nothing to add

Fellowships:

- Men's: Nothing to add



**MECHANIC GROVE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
PROFIT & Loss Budget Performance**

	<u>Apr 20</u>	<u>Jan - Apr 20</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	
Beginning Balance	26,255.47	7,790.48		
<b>Income</b>				
<b>4000 · CONTRIBUTIONS</b>				
400101 · GENERAL FUND OFFERING	34,519.60	157,756.50	532,886.00	29.6%
<b>4010 · SPECIAL OFFERINGS</b>				
401101 · CHRISTMAS OFFERING-001	0.00	1,000.00	18,300.00	5.5%
401201 · ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING-001	250.00	8,245.00	11,600.00	71.1%
401301 · MISSION OFFERING-001	0.00	1,000.00	12,300.00	8.1%
401401 · THANKSGIVING OFFERING-002	0.00	1,000.00	4,773.00	21.0%
<b>Total 4010 · SPECIAL OFFERINGS</b>	250.00	11,245.00	46,973.00	23.9%
<b>4020 · EARMARKED OFFERINGS</b>				
402401 · 2 CENT-A-MEAL	0.00	35.32	0.00	100.0%
402501 · CHANGE FOR CHANGE FUND-002	0.00	232.07	0.00	100.0%
402801 · MISC. EARMARKED GIFTS	1,235.00	3,945.00	0.00	100.0%
402901 · BIRTHDAY/Benevolence	0.00	1,564.25	0.00	100.0%
<b>Total 4020 · EARMARKED OFFERINGS</b>	1,235.00	5,776.64	0.00	100.0%
<b>Total 4000 · CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	36,004.60	174,778.14	579,859.00	30.1%
<b>4040 · OTHER INCOME</b>				
404101 · FLC RENTAL INCOME	0.00	2,018.25	0.00	100.0%
<b>Total 4040 · OTHER INCOME</b>	0.00	2,018.25	0.00	100.0%
<b>Total Income</b>	36,004.60	176,796.39	579,859.00	30.5%
<b>Gross Profit</b>	36,004.60	176,796.39	579,859.00	30.5%
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>5020 EARMARKED OFFERING</b>				
502901 BIRTHDAY /Benevolence	1,564.25	1,564.25	0.00	100.0%
502501 CHANGE FOR CHANGE FUND	232.07	232.07	0.00	100.0%
502401 2 CENT -A-MEAL	35.32	35.32	0.00	100.0%
502801 MISC. EARMARKED EXP	3,445.00	3,445.00	0.00	100.0%
<b>Total 5020 EARMARKED OFFERING</b>	5,276.64	5,276.64	0.00	100.0%
<b>5000 · GLOBAL OUTREACH - SPECIAL</b>				
500101 · CHRISTMAS OFFERING-002	0.00	0.00	18,300.00	0.0%
500201 · ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING-002	8,245.00	8,245.00	11,600.00	71.1%
500301 · MISSION OFFERING-002	0.00	0.00	12,300.00	0.0%
500401 · THANKSGIVING OFFERING-001	0.00	0.00	4,773.00	0.0%
<b>Total 5000 · GLOBAL OUTREACH - SPECIAL</b>	8,245.00	8,245.00	46,973.00	17.6%
<b>5100 · GLOBAL OUTREACH - COMMITTED</b>				
510511 · ANE DISASTER BENEVOLENCE FUND	55.41	221.64	665.00	33.3%
510101 · ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT	2,149.58	8,598.32	25,795.00	33.3%
510201 · BETHANY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY	0.00	0.00	2,660.00	0.0%
510401 · CAMP SWATARA	293.16	1,172.64	3,518.00	33.3%
510501 · SEEDS OF FAITH ENDOWMENT	55.41	221.64	665.00	33.3%
510601 · BOARD PROGRAM INITIATIVE	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total 5100 · GLOBAL OUTREACH - COMMITTED</b>	2,553.56	10,214.24	34,303.00	29.8%

**5700 - PROPERTIES COMMISSION****5720 - SUPPLIES-002**

572101 · JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	0.00	1,661.85	4,000.00	41.5%
572201 · KITCHEN SUPPLIES	0.00	1,434.61	1,200.00	119.6%
<b>Total 5720 · SUPPLIES-002</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,096.46</b>	<b>5,200.00</b>	<b>59.5%</b>

**5730 - REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE**

573101 · BLDG REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	2,103.00	10,286.63	25,000.00	41.1%
573201 · EQUIPMENT & FURNISHINGS	0.00	261.45	4,000.00	6.5%
573301 · LAWN SERVICE	0.00	109.84	3,500.00	3.1%
573401 · EQUIPMENT REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	0.00	9.41	1,200.00	0.78%
573501 · DAY CARE MAINTENANCE	250.00	761.75	2,000.00	38.1%
573601 · SNOW REMOVAL-002	0.00	470.00	1,600.00	29.4%
<b>Total 5730 · REPAIRS &amp; MAINTENANCE</b>	<b>2,353.00</b>	<b>11,899.08</b>	<b>37,300.00</b>	<b>31.9%</b>

**5740 - OTHER EXPENSES**

574101 · TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES	0.00	91.84	1,000.00	9.2%
574201 · LANDSCAPE UPGRADES	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total 5740 · OTHER EXPENSES</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>91.84</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>4.6%</b>

**Total 5700 · PROPERTIES COMMISSION**

2,353.00	15,087.38	44,500.00	33.9%
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**5200 - STEWARDS COMMISSION****5210 - INSURANCE**

521101 · FIRE & LIABILITY INSURANCE	0.00	2,770.00	9,000.00	30.8%
521201 · WORKERS COMPENSATION	0.00	1,031.31	5,000.00	20.6%
<b>Total 5210 · INSURANCE</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,801.31</b>	<b>14,000.00</b>	<b>27.2%</b>

**5220 - UTILITIES**

522101 · PROPANE - CHURCH	664.30	5,745.03	14,000.00	41.0%
522201 · ELECTRIC	675.11	3,810.09	14,000.00	27.2%
522301 · ELECTRIC - DAY CARE	101.72	499.85	2,000.00	25.0%
522401 · TELEPHONE & INTERNET	715.51	3,418.82	6,500.00	52.6%
522601 · HEATING OIL - DAYCARE	309.10	810.41	1,000.00	81.0%
<b>Total 5220 · UTILITIES</b>	<b>2,465.74</b>	<b>14,284.20</b>	<b>37,500.00</b>	<b>38.1%</b>

**5260 - EMERGENCY SERVICES**

526101 · QUARRYVILLE FIRE COMPANY	0.00	800.00	800.00	100.0%
526201 · LANCASTER EMS	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.0%
<b>Total 5260 · EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>800.00</b>	<b>900.00</b>	<b>88.9%</b>

**5270 - OTHER EXPENSES-002**

527201 · OFFERING ENVELOPES	0.00	0.00	475.00	0.0%
527301 · PAYROLL & TAX PREPARATION	101.95	432.96	1,500.00	28.9%
527401 · MISCELLANEOUS - STEWARDS	0.00	200.09	1,000.00	20.0%
527601 · COPY MACHINE LEASE-002	587.00	2,348.00	8,000.00	29.4%
<b>Total 5270 · OTHER EXPENSES-002</b>	<b>688.95</b>	<b>2,981.05</b>	<b>10,975.00</b>	<b>27.2%</b>

**Total 5200 · STEWARDS COMMISSION**

3,154.69	21,866.56	63,375.00	34.5%
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<b>5300 · BOARD OF DEACONS</b>				
530101 · LOVE FEAST	100.00	100.00	700.00	14.3%
530201 · SPIRITUAL RENEWAL SERVICE	275.89	-260.00	550.00	-47.3%
530501 · SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCHEON	0.00	0.00	700.00	0.0%
530601 · HEALTH & WELLNESS MINISTRY	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.0%
<b>Total 5300 · BOARD OF DEACONS</b>	<b>375.89</b>	<b>-160.00</b>	<b>2,150.00</b>	<b>-7.4%</b>
<b>5400 · WITNESS COMMISSION</b>				
<b>5410 · LOCAL OUTREACH</b>				
BHA	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
541101 · SOLANCO NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTERIE	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.0%
541201 · SOL. MINISTERIAL FUEL FUND	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%
541301 · VERITAS	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.0%
541401 · ADVERTISING	56.00	489.84	1,200.00	40.8%
541501 · FLOWING OIL CAFE	0.00	0.00	400.00	0.0%
541801 · BRETHREN HOUSING ASSN KIDS	0.00	0.00	400.00	0.0%
541901 · COBYS	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total 5410 · LOCAL OUTREACH</b>	<b>56.00</b>	<b>489.84</b>	<b>8,000.00</b>	<b>6.1%</b>
<b>5420 · GLOBAL OUTREACH</b>				
WOW WEDNESDAY MEAL	0.00	604.62	1,000.00	60.5%
542301 · WITNESS PROJECTS	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
542701 · EMERGENCY DISASTER RELIEF	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total 5420 · GLOBAL OUTREACH</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>604.62</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>	<b>20.2%</b>
<b>Total 5400 · WITNESS COMMISSION</b>	<b>56.00</b>	<b>1,094.46</b>	<b>11,000.00</b>	<b>9.9%</b>
<b>5500 · NURTURE COMMISSION</b>				
<b>5510 · EDUCATION MINISTRIES</b>				
551101 · BIBLE SCHOOL	0.00	0.00	1,300.00	0.0%
551201 · CHILDREN'S CHURCH	97.64	118.00	350.00	33.7%
553101 · CHILDREN'S BIBLES	0.00	0.00	550.00	0.0%
553201 · DEVOTIONAL LITERATURE	55.00	110.00	250.00	44.0%
553401 · LIBRARY	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.0%
553501 · NURSERY EXPENSES	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.0%
553701 · YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES	0.00	52.56	300.00	17.5%
553801 · SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES	50.48	964.85	4,500.00	21.4%
<b>Total 5510 · EDUCATION MINISTRIES</b>	<b>203.12</b>	<b>1,245.41</b>	<b>7,450.00</b>	<b>16.7%</b>
<b>5520 · NURTURE SCHOLARSHIPS</b>				
COM SCHOLARSHIPS	1,119.23	4,476.92	10,250.00	43.7%
552101 · CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
552701 · PEACE ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.0%
552801 · COBYS COUNSELING CENTER	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.0%
<b>Total 5520 · NURTURE SCHOLARSHIPS</b>	<b>1,119.23</b>	<b>4,476.92</b>	<b>12,250.00</b>	<b>36.6%</b>
<b>5540 · JR. &amp; SR. HIGH YOUTH EXPENSES</b>				
554101 · SR. HIGH NATIONAL YOUTH CONF.	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
554501 · YOUTH WORKCAMP EXPENSES	0.00	170.65	1,600.00	10.7%
554601 · NATIONAL JR HIGH CONFERENCE	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
554901 · YOUTH EXPENSES	0.00	1,025.07	3,000.00	34.0%
<b>Total 5540 · JR. &amp; SR. HIGH YOUTH EXPENSES</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,195.72</b>	<b>6,600.00</b>	<b>18.1%</b>

<b>5550 - OTHER NURTURE EXPENSES</b>				
555901 - WOW OTHER	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.0%
555401 - GRADUATION GIFTS	0.00	0.00	150.00	0.0%
555501 - CARE GROUPS	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.0%
555601 - CHURCH PICNIC	0.00	0.00	350.00	0.0%
555701 - CHILDREN'S OUTREACH-MISC.	-2,699.05	1,011.05	750.00	134.8%
555801 - VOLUNTEER CLEARANCES	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.0%
<b>Total 5550 - OTHER NURTURE EXPENSES</b>	<b>-2,699.05</b>	<b>1,011.05</b>	<b>1,950.00</b>	<b>51.9%</b>
<b>Total 5500 - NURTURE COMMISSION</b>	<b>-1,376.70</b>	<b>7,929.10</b>	<b>28,250.00</b>	<b>28.1%</b>
<b>5600 - MINISTRY COMMISSION</b>				
<b>CUSTODIAL COMPENSATION</b>				
CUSTODIAL IRA	0.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	50.0%
CUSTODIAL INSURANCE	333.16	1,332.64	3,870.00	34.4%
CUSTODIAL PAYROLL TAXES	195.76	783.04	2,794.00	28.0%
CUSTODIAL SALARY	2,686.62	10,746.48	34,926.00	30.8%
<b>Total CUSTODIAL COMPENSATION</b>	<b>3,215.54</b>	<b>13,862.16</b>	<b>43,590.00</b>	<b>31.8%</b>
<b>5560 - YOUTH &amp; YA PASTOR COMPENSATION</b>				
Y & YA PASTOR CONTINUING ED	0.00	0.00	750.00	0.0%
556101 - Y & YA PASTOR SALARY	3,633.00	14,532.00	47,229.00	30.8%
556201 - Y & YA PASTOR HOUSING	784.62	3,138.48	10,200.00	30.8%
556301 - Y & YA PASTOR PENSION	588.97	2,355.88	6,891.00	34.2%
556401 - Y & YA PASTOR INSURANCE	974.06	3,896.24	10,694.00	36.4%
<b>Total 5560 - YOUTH &amp; YA PASTOR COMPENSATION</b>	<b>5,980.65</b>	<b>23,922.60</b>	<b>75,764.00</b>	<b>31.6%</b>
<b>5610 - SENIOR PASTOR COMPENSATION</b>				
SENIOR. PASTOR CONTINUING ED	0.00	40.00	1,000.00	4.0%
561101 - SENIOR PASTOR SALARY	4,500.24	18,000.96	58,503.00	30.8%
561201 - SENIOR PASTOR HOUSING	1,015.38	4,061.52	13,200.00	30.8%
561301 - SENIOR PASTOR PENSION	735.40	2,941.60	8,604.00	34.2%
561401 - SENIOR PASTOR INSURANCE	978.70	3,914.80	10,651.00	36.8%
<b>Total 5610 - SENIOR PASTOR COMPENSATION</b>	<b>7,229.72</b>	<b>28,958.88</b>	<b>91,958.00</b>	<b>31.5%</b>
<b>5620 - ASSOC PASTOR COMPENSATION</b>				
562101 - ASSOC PASTOR SALARY	0.00	2,151.73		
562201 - ASSOC PASTOR HOUSING	0.00	507.69		
562301 - ASSOC PASTOR PENSION	0.00	-106.38		
562401 - ASSOC PASTOR INSURANCE	0.00	-111.66		
<b>Total 5620 - ASSOC PASTOR COMPENSATION</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,441.38</b>		
<b>5625 - CHILDREN'S PROGRAM AD. COMP</b>				
562601 - CHILDREN PROGRAM ADMIN SALARY	2,516.40	10,065.60	16,029.00	62.8%
562701 - CHILDREN PROGRAM ADMIN TAXES	173.68	694.72	1,282.00	54.2%
<b>Total 5625 - CHILDREN'S PROGRAM AD. COMP</b>	<b>2,690.08</b>	<b>10,760.32</b>	<b>17,311.00</b>	<b>62.2%</b>
<b>5630 - CLERICAL COMPENSATION</b>				
563101 - CLERICAL SALARY	1,442.36	8,416.38	29,600.00	28.4%
563201 - CLERICAL PAYROLL TAXES	110.35	643.86	2,327.00	27.7%
563301 - CLERICAL PENSION	-57.70	-336.67	3,491.00	-9.60%
<b>Total 5630 - CLERICAL COMPENSATION</b>	<b>1,495.01</b>	<b>8,723.57</b>	<b>35,418.00</b>	<b>24.6%</b>

<b>5635 · MUSIC COORDINATOR COMP.</b>				
563601 · MUSIC COORDINATOR SALARY	0.00	1,939.20	10,504.00	18.5%
563701 · MUSIC COORDINATOR TAXES	0.00	148.37	840.00	17.7%
<b>Total 5635 · MUSIC COORDINATOR COMP.</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,087.57</b>	<b>11,344.00</b>	<b>18.4%</b>
<b>5640 · PROFESSIONAL GROWTH</b>				
564201 · CLERICAL PROFESSIONAL GROWTH	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.0%
564301 · SEMINARY SCHOLARSHIPS	0.00	0.00	600.00	0.0%
564401 · STAFF & VOLUNTEER WORKSHOPS	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total 5640 · PROFESSIONAL GROWTH</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,800.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>5650 · SUPPLIES &amp; EXPENSES</b>				
PICTORIAL DIRECTORY	0.00	0.00	325.00	0.0%
HOSPITALITY/REFRESHMENTS	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.0%
WEBSITE/DATA BASE	0.00	50.00	825.00	6.1%
PRAISE TEAM	0.00	-80.00	1,650.00	-4.9%
566501 · PASTORAL PROFESSIONAL EXPENSE	15.11	256.53	1,500.00	1710.0%
565101 · PASTOR'S MILEAGE	0.00	826.33	5,000.00	16.5%
565201 · OFFICE SUPPLIES	312.15	703.73	4,000.00	17.6%
565301 · POSTAGE	152.29	731.28	2,000.00	36.6%
565401 · ANNUAL CONF. DELEGATE EXPENSES	952.95	952.95	4,000.00	23.8%
565501 · FLOWER/WORSHIP CENTER	-54.00	-54.00	500.00	-10.0%
565701 · MUSIC	0.00	532.28	1,500.00	35.5%
565801 · TELEPHONE CHURCH DIRECTORIES	0.00	660.00	800.00	82.5%
565901 · HANDBELL MAINTENANCE	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.0%
566001 · SPECIAL MINISTRIES/EVENTS	0.00	54.83	500.00	11.0%
566201 · DISTRICT CONF. DELEGATE EXPENS	0.00	0.00	250.00	0.0%
566401 · MISCELLANEOUS	125.88	136.47	700.00	19.5%
<b>Total 5650 · SUPPLIES &amp; EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,504.38</b>	<b>4,770.40</b>	<b>25,150.00</b>	<b>19.0%</b>
<b>Total 5600 · MINISTRY COMMISSION</b>	<b>22,115.38</b>	<b>95,526.88</b>	<b>302,335.00</b>	<b>31.6%</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>42,753.46</b>	<b>165,080.26</b>	<b>532,886.00</b>	<b>31.0%</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>19,506.61</b>	<b>19,506.61</b>	<b>46,973.00</b>	<b>24.9%</b>
<b>Beginning Balance Building Maint. Fund</b>	<b>128,399.89</b>	<b>127,060.89</b>		
<b>contributions</b>	<b>1,401.00</b>	<b>2,740.00</b>		
<b>expenditures</b>				
<b>Ending Balance Building Maint. Fund</b>	<b>129,800.89</b>	<b>129,800.89</b>		
<b>Balances:</b>				
<b>General Church Fund</b>	<b>28,394.21</b>			
<b>Building Maintenance Fund</b>	<b>129,800.89</b>			
<b>Challenger Kitchen Fund</b>	<b>962.25</b>			
<b>Memorial Fund</b>	<b>660.00</b>	Willis Krantz		
	<b>360.00</b>	Robert Hershberger		
	<b>125.00</b>	Gerald Kreider		
<b>Women's Ministry</b>	<b>8,102.49</b>			
<b>Benevolence Fund</b>	<b>11,018.71</b>			



**Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren**  
**Executive Committee - April 27, 2020**

Due to the stay at home order caused by COVID-19, this meeting was held by Zoom video conference. The following executive committee members were in attendance: Dave Nichols, Derrick Kreider, Philip & Sheri Johnson, Linda Bledsoe, Pastor Calvin, Pastor Jeff, Jenn Nolt, Randy Hart, Jenn Berkey, Eric Holzhauser, Ken Herr. Derrick Kreider, Church Board Chair, opened the meeting with prayer.

- ◆ Treasurer Update - The Treasurer's report for March shows receipts at \$38,679.19 and payments at \$38,483.37 with an ending balance of \$26,276.91. Online giving started April 2, 2020. It appears in the last few weeks the number of members giving online has increased. Our weekly giving has been similar to usual since we have been having online services.
- ◆ Discussion Items from Commissions, Pastors, or church organizations
  - From Nurture Commission – Donation requested by Camp Swatara due to the closure of camp since March 15 caused by COVID-19; to be used for general operation, specifically taking care of staff, buildings and grounds, and infrastructure. Suggestions are for Sunday School classes to discuss donations to Camp Swatara, or if summer camps are not able to be held, the line item for camp scholarships (total of \$1000.00) could be sent to Camp Swatara.
  - From Nurture Commission – Nurture has reached out to Sunday School classes to see how they are communicating during the stay at home order. All Sunday School classes are keeping in contact in some way. In addition, some licensed ministers in the congregation are reaching out to members over 70. Pastor Calvin is also holding Facebook Live sessions during the week that some members are participating in. Nurture will be reaching out to Sunday School classes and small groups monthly to see if there are any needs. Children were sent Easter packets. We need to brainstorm additional ways to connect with elementary and preschool children. Several Executive Committee members expressed caution about the amount of screen time that children are already exposed to. We perhaps need to discuss other options to nurture our children.
  - From Nurture Commission – Nurture is meeting again in two weeks to discuss VBS. Executive Committee discussed various alternative options to our traditional VBS setting. In addition to what the state allows this summer, we need to keep in mind the ability of children to wear masks and participate in social distancing, as well as the comfort level of parents to have their children participate.
  - From Pastor Jeff – Correction to Church Board minutes – Tuesday morning session is a small group with some young adults and older youth and they are playing games.
  - From Property Commission – Four rooftop units will be delivered, likely next month. If we are unable to install at the time of delivery, there would be no additional charge, as long as we could offload the units ourselves. The install will take two days. Executive Committee by consensus gives Property Commission the approval to move forward with the installation.
  - From COM – Employees applying for unemployment compensation due to COVID-19 were denied because the church is a tax exempt organization. There is a program through the Church of the Brethren called Church Workers Assistance Program that is a one-time grant. There is also a Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program that employees that don't qualify for traditional unemployment compensation can apply for. If employees qualify, this program is retroactive to the date they were laid off. Aliza did reach out to directors who then reached out to their employees to let them know of this Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program.
  - From COM – Small Business Loan was requested by COM and processed by the church through PNC. Our loan application has been reviewed and approved by PNC. PNC will be submitting the loan on our behalf. We are hoping to know more by the end of this week. If the loan comes through, we need to clarify if we would need to back pay all employees in order for the loan to be forgiven (and then they would not be eligible for Unemployment Compensation), or if the loan only applies to currently employed staff. Ken Herr will reach out to liability carrier to clarify this issue.

- From Deacons – Some deacons are continuing to send cards to members. The church retreat was cancelled, and we are unaware if this could even be rescheduled.
- ◆ Spring Council Meeting – Our bylaws do not leave a contingency for cancelling Council Meeting, but Dave Nichols believes state mandates override our bylaws and video conferencing would be unmanageable. There would also be some members that would, in effect, be excluded by lack of technology. At present, there is nothing that needs a congregational vote. Executive Committee discussed the need for a modified council packet to be available for members. By consensus, we are cancelling the Spring Council Meeting and Tina will put together a packet to have available for members.
  - Licensing of Rachel Johnson – Once the licensing process progresses through the district office, pending their approval, we will hold a congregational vote for licensing, done through mail, if necessary, if we are unable to gather for a congregational meeting.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Derrick Kreider.

Respectfully Submitted, Sheri Johnson, Church Clerk

**Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren  
Church Board Minutes – April 20, 2020**

\*\* Due to the stay at home order caused by COVID-19, the Church Board did not meet as scheduled on April 20, 2020. Instead, commissions met, if needed, by video conference or through email communications and submitted highlights to be combined to serve as a report to Church Board.

The Treasurer’s report for March shows receipts at \$38,679.19 and payments at \$38,483.37 with an ending balance of \$26,276.91.

**Commission Reports**

**Ministry – Cinda Showalter**

- Dates for the pictorial directory have been changed to August.

**Nurture – Jenn Berkey**

- Pastor Jeff has been meeting virtually with some youth on Tuesday mornings for devotional time and Wednesday evening for games. Both summer mission trips have been cancelled so they hope to make plans for day trips.
- A request for a monetary donation was received from Camp Swatara. It is being forwarded to Executive Committee since it doesn’t fall under any line items in Nurture’s budget.
- We are discussing what to do with Summer Sunday School and VBS. Katherine has been invited to our next meeting to discuss this further.
- Extra Guidepost booklets were sent to shut ins.
- We are putting together a survey for children’s Sunday School teachers to get feedback on the curriculum.

**Property – Eric Holzhauer**

- Sharon is painting the office while everyone is temporarily moved out.
- Brent Grumbling offered to handle spring clean-up by himself this year so we can avoid large gatherings. Cost will be the same as other years, which is mulch at a discounted rate. Please thank him for his generous offer.
- Rooftop units are being made and we will be required to take delivery of them in about a month. We will not be required to rent a crane or install if funds are an issue. We will be in contact with Stewards and members of Church Board, but we will request to move forward with the install unless there are serious financial concerns.
- All other carpet and daycare projects are on hold for now.

**Stewards – Ken Herr**

- The online giving option is active and available on the church website. Giving since Sunday services have been closed is averaging approximately \$8,000.00 per week.
- Electric supplier change was made in April due to better rates. We are now saving an average of \$135.00 per month compared to February rates.
- Renewal notice for church property, liability, and UC insurance was changed to reflect 2 pastors, rather than 3. Changes are effective with renewal date of April 14.
- In working with COM and Executive Committee, a decision was made to apply for the Federal Payroll Protection Plan loan that is being offered through the Small Business Administration. The application was completed on April 8 with

PNC Bank. This is a 1% interest loan that is intended to cover the cost of payroll for employees that continue to be paid and for utility costs. The loan is to be forgiven and repaid by COVID-19 legislation. The loan is expected to be between \$150,000.00 and \$200,000.00.

**Witness – Mike Mauger**

- Flowing Oil was cancelled.
- We have been in contact with the new Love INC director. We will arrange a mission moment when we begin gathering again.
- Joe Cavanaugh was going to do a mission moment, but that is on hold.
- Baby bottle fundraiser will have to be reemphasized when we gather again. Members had picked them up before gatherings were stopped.

**Reports**

**COM – Jenn Nolt**

- Preschool is closed for the remainder of the school year. Most of the families that paid for the whole year donated the last month's tuition amount.
- We are applying for a small business loan with loan forgiveness to support payroll.
- We received an anonymous donation in the amount of \$2500.00 to cover any refunds to childcare/preschool families. The rest will go toward paying COM salaries.

**Deacons – Randy Hart**

- Love Feast was conducted successfully via YouTube by Pastor Calvin and Mandy and Pastor Jeff, assisted by Adri and Jeffrey.

**Moderator Report/Dave Nichols**

- No report.

**Old Business**

- None

**New Business**

- None

**Pastor Reports:**

**Pastor Calvin**

- ◆ We have had very good attendance with our virtual worship. We've also had good attendance at our Zoom fellowship time following worship. Both have been well received by congregation members.
- ◆ I've worked extensively with various leaders of the church both in making shifts as we received shutdown orders and, more recently, in discussing what a "new normal" may look like.
- ◆ grateful for our entire staff who has continued to work tirelessly to ensure continuity of I am communication with the congregation. It's an entire team effort and I'm so glad to be leading this staff.
  - Pastor Jeff is working hard to continue connecting with our youth and young adults and reports good results.
  - Tina has continued to prepare newsletters and does so many behind the scenes things to keep the church functioning.
  - Sharon has disinfected the entire building and worked at a number of deferred projects.
  - Lori has helped coordinate music for our live streams.
- ◆ As we continue to move forward in the midst of shutdowns, we need to be constantly vigilant for needs in our church family and community. We also need to make sure, in each of our personal lives, that we are continuing to find ways to engage in Christ's mission. After all, Paul was imprisoned in Rome and that didn't stop him from working to accomplish the mission of God.

**Pastor Jeff**

- ◆ See Nurture Commission

Respectfully submitted, Sheri Johnson, Church Clerk

## **COUNCIL REPORT, MODERATOR**

This past winter and spring have been very different from what we all thought it would be. Around the first of the year 2020, we began hearing reports out of China about a new and potentially serious respiratory virus. At the time, most of us likely thought, gee I'm sorry to hear about the troubles they're having over there, I wonder if we should help out in

some way? We thought those thoughts with the sure belief that the problem was theirs and would never be ours. Well, we now know that it is collectively our problem, the entire world's problem.

This challenge has created the need for some changes in our usual behavior and procedures. Our church By-Laws specify that the Church Board meet bi-monthly (every other month) and that the regular Church Council (congregational meeting) will be in May and November.

Our new reality has made these meetings a challenge. Both our Church Board and our Church Council exceed the Pennsylvania guidelines for safely meeting. So here is what we have done. Under our Board Chair's leadership, the five Board Commissions met virtually and prepared reports. The Executive Committee met virtually to receive and discuss the prepared reports and take appropriate action. Also, at the Executive Committee meeting, after discussion on the feasibility of conducting a virtual (ZOOM) Church Council meeting, it was decided cancel the spring meeting. This was done for several reasons, some which are: we believe that the virtual platform would be too awkward and difficult to manage discussions, that many members do not have access to ZOOM, and that with one exception there is not pending business that require a vote.

All that being said, we want you to know that the leadership at Mechanic Grove COB, does not take church by-laws, procedures, or traditions lightly. We had serious conversations and made decisions that we believe are in best interest of the congregation and it's health. If we have missed the mark, please forgive us.

Dave Nichols, Moderator

## **COUNCIL REPORT, MINISTRY COMMISSION**

- Worked with Pastor Calvin to facilitate the smooth transition from three pastoral staff to two by reassigning duties previously handled by three pastors. This included, but was not limited to, coordinating new office hours, arranging a new preaching schedule, and determining how to manage COM responsibilities.
- Partnered with deacons to create a care system / visitation plan, working closely with Sunday school classes to identify point persons within each class who will ensure ongoing ministering to the class members' needs.
- Communicated all new processes with the congregation and provided opportunity for dialogue.
- Supported those with expertise regarding ongoing issues with the sound system and the organ to identify ways to correct these issues.
- Authorized the purchase of Breeze, a software church management system.
- Facilitated with pleasure the request by Rachel Johnson to enter the licensing process as she discerns a call to the set-apart ministry. The commission and board unanimously voted to approve Rachel's request. Once Rachel has met with the District Ministry Commission, the entire church will have the opportunity to vote to affirm her calling into this ministry.
- Worked to establish plans and goals for staff improvement.
- Supported the pictorial directory committee decision to change the event date to August. Photos will now be taken August 18-22 and August 25.
- Worked closely with, and supported Pastor Calvin in determining the best way to handle all issues related to congregational ministry and the building closure during the COVID-19 mandates.

Submitted by chair Cinda Showalter on behalf of commission members Clarence Wenger, vice-chair; Phil Hershey, secretary; Brett Holzhauer; Faith Reimold; Sheri Johnson, Calvin Park

## **COUNCIL REPORT, WITNESS COMMISSION**

- We are looking for a devotion coordinator for when WOW resumes.
- We are currently in the middle of our baby bottle fund raiser for Cornerstone.
- Sponsored Solanco post prom for \$100. (Ad in booklet)
- Blanket Sunday was to be May 10. Will look toward a future date possibly.
- Sponsoring Joe Cavanaugh with Central Mexico Missionaries for \$200.
- Love INC has a new coordinator and we will plan with Pastor Calvin at a later date for them to present a mission moment so we can update our volunteer list and help remind everyone where their ministry reaches to.
- Women's ministry has revamped and come under the Witness umbrella although they have their own leadership.

Mike Mauger, Witness Commission Chair

## COUNCIL REPORT, NURTURE COMMISSION

- Wrote thank you cards to Sunday School teachers. (Fall 2019 and Winter 2020)
- Prepared for the winter session of WOW by lining up volunteers, checking in with Kay Swarr regarding the children's lessons, and setting the dates.
- Reviewed and approved a request to purchase more Upper Room devotionals for the congregation since they are no longer available at Fergies.
- Checked in with VBS directors to approve their curriculum and provide feedback.
- Looked over attendance for children's Sunday School and denied a request to combine classes, based on appropriateness of lessons and ages.
- Reviewed data on Sunday School attendance over the last several years and made a decision to have Sunday School classes stay together over the summer and have electives in the fall. (subject to change due to COVID-19)
- Approved plans for ALiCE training and started sharing preliminary information with the congregation. An information session and full explanations were to happen in May, however were put on hold due to COVID-19.
- Approved camp scholarships for 3 children/youth.
- Started cleaning out and organizing the book/resource room for Sunday School and small group materials.
- Checked in with all Adult Sunday School classes at the start of virtual church to offer support and ideas.
- Checked in with teachers of Children's Sunday School classes to offer suggestions of reaching out to the children of the church.
- Made the decision to cancel VBS 2020 and made a plan to create a series of interactive videos for the kids that will be made available starting on June 21<sup>st</sup> and will run for 7 consecutive days.
- Started revisions on the church's Child Protection Policy.

Jenn Berkey, Nurture Commission Chair

## COUNCIL REPORT, PROPERTY COMMISSION

- Our main project we have been focused on is replacement of the rooftop units. We replaced some of the units including the one that was leaking into sanctuary. So hopefully til we return we will have everything looking back to normal on ceiling in sanctuary.
- Sharon has done some painting in office, seemed like an appropriate time to do so when foot traffic is light.
- Brent and Amanda Grumbling took care of spring cleanup, so they deserve a big **Thank You** for doing this, so we didn't need to try to gather as a group during stay at home order.
- We are still going to have to be in discussions about few code issues we had on exterior play area at day care to make sure we can satisfy that when things are able to get back to "normal".

Eric Holzhauer, Property Commission Chair

## COUNCIL REPORT, STEWARDS COMMISSION

- Continued weekly review and approval of invoices and signing of checks with Tina (Admin. Assistant) and Linda (Treasurer).
- Monitor weekly giving and monthly budget finances.
- Approved online giving program that has now been applied to the Church's website.
- Reviewed options and prices for our electric supplier. Changed supplier for a 1-year term saving approximately \$125.00 per month.
- Received a renewal notice from our insurance carrier. Reviewed, changed staff numbers, and approved.
- Following the Executive Committees decision, an application was submitted to PNC Bank for a Payroll Protection Plan loan offered by the Congressional Covid 19 Cares Act. Funding of \$106,400.00 was received on May 10th to be used for payroll and utilities. All of this may be forgiven by the Federal Grant.
- Thanks to church members for their continued generous giving during suspension of Sunday services.

Ken Herr, Stewards Commission Chair



## COUNCIL REPORT, CHILDREN'S OUTREACH MINISTRIES BOARD

### Mechanic Grove Christian Child Care, Wee Friends Preschool, Mechanic Grove Kindergarten/1<sup>st</sup> Grade, Christian Love Around School Program (CLASP) and Christian Love All Summer Program (Summer CLASP)

Children's Outreach Ministries was thrown an unexpected curve when we had to close our doors March 13th because of the COVID-19 outbreak. Never did any of us anticipate what was to come, how long we would have to remain closed, and how much our programs would have to change moving forward. We are blessed to have amazing Directors who are dedicated to our ministries and creating the safest and best learning environments for the families we serve.

**Wee Friends Preschool**, under the direction of Sharon Godfrey, had a great seven months with 114 children. Most of the classes were able to take the field trips and have the special activities that had been planned for the school year. For the first few weeks we were closed, the preschool teachers posted videos on our Facebook page for their students to enjoy as we attempted to keep that connection with them. Our hope at that time was that we would be able to have a few weeks before we ended the present school year. Unfortunately, we were not able to finish the year. The teachers, children and families alike were very disappointed to not be able and have one last opportunity to get together and say goodbye. We are making plans to start off the upcoming school year reviewing and re-enforcing some of the things the children would have learned in the spring. Currently we are registering for the fall. Enrollment is down compared to this time last year, as there are only 70 enrolled. However, it is our prayer that once there is some clarity to the present health situation in our State, enrollment will get back on track.

Our **Primary Program** (Kindergarten), taught by Sharon Godfrey, started in April to hold Zoom meetings in lieu of being able to meet for class here at our facility. Sharon will continue the online instruction through the first half of May. In addition to the online classes Sharon also sent multiple learning packets out to the students and has kept communication with the parents to review the children's work and do her best to prepare them for the school year ahead.

Our **Child Care**, directed by Joan Cutler, continues to do their best to communicate with the children we serve. All the staff have taken turns posting videos on our Facebook page reading storybooks, doing rhymes, "circle time" and simple activities for the kids to watch and enjoy. As we look down the road to when we might be able to reopen, Joan is contacting each of the families and staff to verify who will be able to return and making them aware of some of the changes and precautions that the State has directed we take when we do reopen.

Our school year **CLASP** Program, directed by Tracy Frey, had to close as well with the Shelter at Home order. We were halfway through the process of planning for Summer CLASP when all of this happened. We currently have 25 enrolled for the summer (16 full time and 9 part time), however we anticipate we may not keep all of the families that registered due to the current situation and health climate. Unfortunately, many of our field trips have been canceled, and it seems that when **Summer CLASP** opens it will look very different. Since CLASP and Child Care are certified by the State there will be special guidelines we must follow when we are able to reopen. Staff and children alike will have to wear masks, we must maintain smaller groupings of children and more than likely we will not be allowed to go out on trips because of the number restrictions on gatherings, just to name a few. With certain items like masks being in short supply, I have asked those that sew in the church if they would be willing to make and donate masks to COM Ministries.

I wholeheartedly believe that God works through COM ministries and we are trusting Him to carry us financially. We are aware that things have already changed and may continue to do so, but we are doing our best to adjust and pray that God guides us to see how we can best serve the families of our community.

We continue to be grateful for your prayers and support. Your prayers for our staff and children are coveted at this time.

Respectfully submitted, Aliza Kraynak, COM Administrator

## COUNCIL REPORT, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- See Minutes from April 27, 2020 meeting (page 10)

## COUNCIL REPORT, FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

- The Financial Review Committee recently reviewed the financial records of the Church Treasurer and the C.O.M. treasurer. All records are up to date and in good order.

Randy Hart, Mary Etta Reinhart, Ken Rutt

## **COUNCIL REPORT, DEACON**

- Deacons served Candlelight Communion on 12/22/2019.
- We served pew Communion on 2/23/2020.
- We assisted with Baptism on 3/1/2020.
- Some of the Deacons are currently assisting the Pastors with contacting members of our congregation by phone.

Submitted by Randy & Deb Hart, Deacon Chairpersons

## **COUNCIL REPORT, MEMORIAL COMMITTEE**

The memorial committee has balances of \$410.00 for Robert Hershberger; Willis Krantz \$660.00 and Gerald Kreider \$125.00. A donation \$515.00 was given to Church Property by the Russ Lloyd memorial and donation of \$75.00 for Eleanor Kreider memorial given to fund for the organ. Nothing to report

Charlotte Trimble, Memorial Committee Secretary

## **COUNCIL REPORT, CHILDREN'S WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

Children's Church continued to meet biweekly until the middle of March. We were studying the Parables of Jesus and the children were enjoying learning from Jesus' teachings and working on their monthly scripture. A packet of Easter activities was mailed to the children of the church before Easter. We unfortunately have had to cancel the Angel Tea but are hoping to be able to either reschedule it later this year or do something else to connect the children with adults in the church. We look forward to when Children's Church can safely resume in the future.

Jenn Berkey and Melissa Kreider – Children's Church Committee

## **COUNCIL REPORT, MEN'S WORK**

The Men's Work committee convined a meeting last January.

- Men's Banquet scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup>. Cancelled post the meeting due to Covid-19.
- Donation of \$750.00 to 6 individuals for disaster relief travel.
- Donation of \$5,022.00 to New Windsor Disaster relief.
- Donation \$100.00 to Women's Fellowship.
- There will be no "corn project" during 2020 due to the lack of land.
- The Disaster Relief Picnic will be held on June 18<sup>th</sup> @ Alan Platt's residence.

Respectfully submitted, Stephen Grosh - Secretary

## **COUNCIL REPORT, WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

- December 31, 2019 Women's Fellowship was dissolved.
- January 1, 2020 the Women's Ministry Committee was created. The committee members are Jenn Nolt, Caitlyn Mauger, Lori Holzhauser, Denise Mellott and Denise Young
- February 8, 2020 more than 80 women and children attended the Valentines Breakfast.
- Flavor Fest and The Women's Banquet were unfortunately cancelled because of COVID-19

Respectfully submitted, Ruth Ann Wood on behalf of Linda Bolt

## **COUNCIL REPORT, JUNIOR HIGH & SENIOR HIGH**

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Jesus,

While our congregation may presently be in quarantine we have actually been and have remained quite active. With that in mind, we want to share some of the neat things the youth have been doing since our fall congregational meeting.

First, we would like to address service in mission. Last November, 12 youth and 3 advisors from Mechanic Grove CoB joined together with the ministries of Hempfield & Lititz CoB to serve the needs of the people in Washington D.C. We left on a Friday evening and joined our friends in Jesus at St. Stephen's Baptist Church. We then worked all through Saturday to feed over 300 families with Thanksgiving Food Baskets and traveled to two additional locations to distribute much needed supplies of clothing and food to those in need.

Our second piece of good news actually happened during and after this mission event, because it was during Sunday Worship that Acacia Kreider declared her intention to be baptized. This baptism was the first indoor baptism we have had in a while, and the youth team wants to specifically thank Derrick for setting up the camera, and our deacons for working hard to make sure Acacia and Pastor Calvin didn't freeze in the waters. We are always blessed when a youth commits their life to walking with Jesus.

Next, turning towards spiritual growth, during the months of January and early February our Jr. & Sr. High youth both got to attend their annual winter retreats. We had a group of 10 Jr. High Students with 2 advisors at Blackrock's Winter Retreat, and we had a group of 22 students and advisors attend our Winter Retreat at Three Springs Ministries.

We have also been meeting throughout our present WoW season as small groups on Wednesday nights and have really appreciated the hard work of our small group advisors. Kat Cassadonti, Adri Keller & Clarence Wenger. We are now in need of one more male leader for Sr. High for the fall. Please contact Pastor Jeff if you are nudged to respond to this call.

On Sunday morning, our youth have been led by a number of teachers. We are blessed to have Nancy Wimer who has taken on the ministry of finding called persons to teach. Our Sr. High has been going through "The Story" in order to learn about their place in the larger Narrative of God's story. Meanwhile, our Jr High has been working through "Heart, Soul & Mind" to learn what it means to follow Jesus in the church and as a member of the Church of the Brethren in particular.

Beyond this we have had a number of fun events and Youth fellowship gatherings on Sunday Evenings Twice a month and off site roughly once a month.

During Quarantine, our youth have met online every Wednesday night for games and devotions, and Pastor Jeff has been leading a daily devotional Monday through Friday on Rick Warren's "The Purpose Driven Life."

Please continue to keep all of our youth and advisors in your prayers as we continue to seek ways to reach out and connect with teenagers during and after this crisis.

Blessings in Jesus' Love,  
Pastor Jeff

## **COUNCIL REPORT, YOUNG ADULT REPORT**

Greetings Church Family,

I wanted to take a few moments to discuss happenings with young adults since our last congregational meeting.

As we have been investing time in young adults, the following has been taking place.

First, Pastor Jeff & Adri began meeting with the embracing neighbors and young adult combined class in January in order to build relationships. We had truly enjoyed our time together with this class and look forward to continuing to grow with our young adults on Sunday morning.

Second, we tried to hold a burrito lunch over the college break at Christmas for the same purpose of getting to know more of our young adults, but our plans fell through when our entire household was struck down with the flu. We have yet to reschedule this due to COVID but look forward to finally making this happen as soon as possible.

Pastor Jeff has also continued to make himself available for pastoral care and guidance with our young adults. Please know that Pastor Jeff will make time to pray with you, sit with you in the hospital, and walk with you through difficulty. May we all continue to walk in love and encouragement with one another.



Finally, during our time of Quarantine, Pastor Jeff has been spending time with a small group of young adults to build relationship and provide opportunities on Tuesday Mornings.

Blessings in Jesus' Love,  
Pastor Jeff

## **COUNCIL REPORT, SENIOR PASTOR**

If you had asked anyone six months ago what the next six months would hold, I don't think any of us would have been able to predict what the world has thrown at us. It feels overwhelming at times. It seems crazy. Since our last Council, we have said goodbye to Pastor Misty. We've celebrated Christmas traditions. We've lost loved ones. Some of us have been in the hospital and come home. We've enjoyed WOW meals. I enjoyed getting to spend time in Sunday School with many of you. Then, in mid-March, it felt like many of those normal things came to a halt. But even in the midst of the pandemic, we've worshiped online—and some of us have discovered we can use technology we never imagined we could! We celebrated feet washing and communion in a new way. We've gathered for fellowship on Zoom following Sunday worship. Some of us have had more conversations with neighbors, or found that we've reconnected with friends or family. In the midst of so much craziness, God has continued to provide opportunities to serve him.

Below is a list of some of the ways I have been active as your senior pastor over the last six months or so. May each of us together continue to be about the mission that God has for us!

### **Leading the Church**

- I was able to work with Ministry Commission on a variety of initiatives, the most important of those was a plan to transition us from three pastors on staff to two.
- During the pandemic, I've been in regular contact with senior church leaders as we've worked to determine the best steps for our congregation to take as we attempt to navigate these strange waters together. I am so proud of the way our leaders have stepped up and I thank God for them each and every day.
- In this midst of this I've also continued to engage the entire congregation through Facebook Live devotions and Zoom conversations.

### **Sermon and Worship Preparation and Leadership**

- After our Advent series around Christmas time, we kicked off 2020 with a focus on the mission of God. We spent nearly two months in a sermon series designed to help us remember and refocus on the mission Jesus has given us as his church: to make disciple-making disciples. After this, we spent Lent looking at how Jesus invited folks in the gospels, and reminding ourselves of the sort of people we ought to be inviting.
- Of course, in the middle of Lent, with the realities of this pandemic, there was a whole new level of worship preparation and leadership that was required. I am thankful to a whole host of people who have been willing to help lead in worship, even with the added complications of technology and distance. Learning about webcams, and live streaming, lighting, and framing shots, and all the rest has required a tremendous investment of time and energy. There are still many things we can improve—and need to improve—about our live streams. But I'm glad that we have been able to consistently gather virtually for worship.
- In the midst of this, sermons and worship have continued to focus on the mission of God, and I've attempted to remind us all each week that while we may be separated physically we still have a mission we are meant to accomplish.

### **General Administration**

- It is a wonderful privilege for me to serve with our great staff. They have worked tirelessly over the last several months, as we've been confronted with a host of issues that are unique and unprecedented. They tackle each issue as it arises with a positive attitude and team spirit. There have been a whole slew of strange and unexpected things thrown at the staff since mid-March, and they've responded quickly to each. I'm proud to be leading them as we navigate this time.
- There have been numerous administrative issues that I've been personally involved in as well, from writing update letters regarding the church's response to COVID-19 to Zoom meetings with church leaders, Commissions, and Committees.
- I've attended all of the Board, Executive, and Church Council meetings in the last six months. I have also attended additional meetings as a result of the coronavirus crisis. It is always a pleasure to work with the groups that lead the church, and that hasn't changed even with the pressures of COVID-19.

## **Visitation**

- I continue to work with the deacons and Pastor Jeff to coordinate congregational care here at Mechanic Grove. There have been challenges to visitation since mid-March.
- I have personally made 20 visits to members at LGH or Lancaster Rehab before hospitals were closed to visitors
- I have also visited in the home or met with church members outside the home 32 times before social distancing took effect
- It is normal for me to enjoy a great many phone calls with congregants, and the number of those phone calls has only increased with our current situation

## **Teaching**

- I thoroughly enjoyed being able to teach the Faithbuilders class in November, senior high in January, and Christian Workers in February. I was in the midst of teaching the Peacemakers when in-person gatherings were canceled
- I love our WOW gatherings and this year I taught a Bible study on David on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. After the shutdown, we picked this back up using Zoom and finished the study
- I have also offered devotional thoughts and teaching via Facebook Live on Mondays and Wednesdays throughout the coronavirus crisis.

## **Special Services**

- I had the honor of officiating at the funerals of Sam Zerphy, Dave Scheffel, Eleanor Kreider, Willis Krantz, and Bob Hershberger over the last six months.
- It was a great joy to baptize Acacia Kreider during worship on March 1.
- Pastor Jeff and I worked to facilitate a scaled back Love Feast that we did virtually in April.

## **Leadership Development and Training**

- I have continued having conversations with various individuals and Commissions concerning how we improve our recruitment and training of volunteers. One of the most important things that any church can do is leadership development.
- I have had the pleasure of walking with Rachel Johnson through the first stages of her licensing process as she discerns a call to the set apart ministry. It was also a great pleasure to have Rachel serve this year in the church office as an intern.
- I continue to examine opportunities for external training events, such as Orange Tour. It is my hope that we will be able to take advantage of these types of events as soon as restrictions on large gatherings are lifted.

## **Relate to the Denomination**

- I regularly meet with other Brethren Pastors for mutual prayer and challenge. Recently, these meetings have taken the form of phone calls or Zoom conferences.
- I served as a workshop leader at a district retreat for youth leaders in February. It was a great honor to get to encourage some of the youth workers in the district, and it was incredibly encouraging to me to hear their stories and become aware of some of the important work they are doing with our young people in the district.
- Since the shutdown, I have occasionally been able to take part of Zoom conferences with other pastors and our District Executive, Pete Kontra.

## **Personal and Professional Growth**

- I have attended several webinars, especially recently. These webinars have had a variety of topics, but some of them include: live streaming worship, helping congregants handle pandemic-related stress, leading worship in the 'new normal,' etc.
- Reading is something I enjoy immensely and continue to do for personal and professional growth. One book that I've read recently that has stuck with me is Trouble I've Seen by Drew G.I. Hart. This book focuses on the topic of racism and the church. Drew provides unique perspective as he is an Anabaptist and a member of Harrisburg First CoB.
- I continue to meet regularly with two coaches, Galen Hackman and Josh Stroup. Both continue to provide helpful insight to me.

May God continue to walk with us as we navigate these strange times.

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Calvin

## **COUNCIL REPORT, PASTOR OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS**

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

It certainly has been a trying season for congregational ministry hasn't it. I must admit for a moment that I was truly hopeful we would be back together before the beginning of April even though a part of my mind was already looking towards the "what if" of this being a longer term separation. I will also admit in this moment that my heart has been grieved along with many of you as the "what ifs" turned to "what is."

If I could have my way, this would be over long before yesterday and the ministry of our church would continue on full bore ahead with the plans we have made. However, it hasn't been so in the will of the Lord. I do not have any great or wise answers to give you about the why of our current situation. Like you, I can only turn to my Lord Jesus and trust that He has not abandoned nor forsaken us. Yet, in spite of the pain of this season of isolation and distance, I have continued to see the hand of the Lord move in our midst. We know that trials that come in this world will be used by our Lord to refine us like silver in the fire of testing. I believe this, and I place my trust in this. It is not that the Lord desires us to suffer, but that He is so mighty in His care that He will even use the bad stuff that comes our way to build us into His Kingdom people.

Since our last congregational meeting, our youth and young adults have continued to come together in new and different ways. Some things in our ministry we have kept the same. For instance, we have continued to minister to our youth through our Winter Retreat. While new things have come alongside the old to enrich the growth of our youth, such as the mission we took over the weekend before Thanksgiving to feed the needy and the homeless of Washington D.C. I suspect that through our suffering the Lord is preparing us to once again refocus our minds and hearts on His everlasting Kingdom. That in our time apart, He is stoking our imaginations towards the power we might join in together as we come back together to share the Gospel of our Lord Jesus.

May we find ourselves in this time renewed, refreshed, re-imagining the possibilities of Discipleship for a new time, and restored in new ways to the foundations of our Lord Jesus.

Blessings to you in His Love & Peace,  
Pastor Jeff

## **COUNCIL REPORT, PASTOR FOR CONGREGATIONAL CARE**

I am blessed to have the opportunity to serve as Pastor for Congregational Care in this congregation. It is a joy to be able to serve the church family with my talents in this way

Like many of you, these past few weeks have been very different than what I had envisioned for the spring months of this year. Four of our five Care Groups have chosen to suspend their regular meetings during these weeks of being told to stay in our homes. The exception is the Monday morning Renovare group which is continuing to meet weekly via ZOOM. This is going well. ZOOM seems to be a good tool for times when we cannot meet in person.

When we are able to resume meeting in person again, I hope to encourage our Care Groups to take up where they left off and hopefully meet over the summer months. Those details will be worked out when that time arrives.

Last summer two "affinity" groups were also organized. The Game Group was able to meet for a few months and will hopefully be able to resume meeting again when gatherings like this are permitted. The Hiking Group met twice last fall. This group has now scheduled a hike for early May. The plan is for the participants to hike outside while keeping their proper "social distancing" from other participants.

I continue working with our deacon board chairs by serving as leadership for the Deacon Congregational Life Ministry Team. The eight members of this team have been assigned to stay in touch with and occasionally visit over 30 persons from our church family who can appreciate that extra effort to stay in touch. During these weeks of staying in our homes, this deacon team was encouraged to make an extra effort to reach out by telephone to persons on their list.

In addition to my work serving as the Pastor for Congregational Care, I also continue in my position as Director of Witness and Outreach for the Atlantic Northeast District AND I am currently serving as the interim pastor at Paxton Church of the Brethren in Harrisburg PA. I am leading Sunday morning worship for the Paxton Church family via ZOOM. In addition, I am leading the weekly Thursday night youth gathering and a Tuesday Bible study via ZOOM. Again, this was not the way I expected to be spending my time, but God is showing me how to be flexible in these challenging times!

It is a blessing to be a part of this church family. God is good!

Blessings to all!  
Mary Etta Reinhart

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



# Council Notes