

Annual Reports - 2016

Mennonite Church of Normal
805 South Cottage Avenue
Normal, Illinois 61761

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 22, 2017

1:00 p.m.

1. Opening Remarks
2. Pastoral Reports
3. Acceptance of Committee Annual Reports
4. Report on 2016 spending plan
5. Approval of 2017 spending plan
6. Head Start Playground
7. Affirmation of Revised Vision and Mission Statements
8. Recognition of Outgoing Committee Members
9. Hearing from the Congregation

Staff

Lead Pastor - Tim Schrag

Associate Pastor - Jane Roeschley

Associate Pastor - Matt Hickman

Administrative Assistant - Lynn Reha

Custodian - Bryan Oyer

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Associate Pastor's Report - Hickman..... | 10 |
| Associate Pastor's Report - Roeschley | 8 |
| Cemetery Trustees | 29 |
| Christian Education Committee..... | 16 |
| Church Board | 13 |
| Congregational Meeting Minutes | |
| January 31, 2016 | 3 |
| May 15, 2016..... | 4 |
| November 13, 2016 | 5 |
| Fellowship Committee | 17 |
| Fiscal Reports | |
| Balance Sheet..... | 30 |
| In Addition to Budget..... | 31 |
| Income and Expense | 32 |
| Spending Plans..... | 32 |
| Audit | 36 |
| Financial Stewardship Committee | 18 |
| Heartland Head Start..... | 38 |
| Homebuilders..... | 28 |
| Junior Mennonite Youth Fellowship (JMYF) | 28 |
| Membership Statistics | 11 |
| Mennonite Residential Community (MRC) | 37 |
| Mennonite Women | 26 |
| Officers and Committee Appointments | 12 |
| Outreach Committee | 19 |
| Parish Nurse | 25 |
| Pastor's Report - Schrag | 6 |
| Pastoral Council..... | 14 |
| Peace and Justice Committee | 22 |
| Planned Giving Committee | 27 |
| Student Mutual Aid Committee (SMAP) | 29 |
| Wellness Committee..... | 24 |
| Worship Committee | 15 |
| Youth Ministry Committee..... | 21 |

Congregational Meeting Minutes

Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 31, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Opening Wayne Hochstetler, Church Chair, opened the meeting with the reading of a psalm and with prayer.

Reporting on the Congregational vote on reappointment of Tim Schrag as lead pastor 127 votes were cast. 119 (94%) voted yes, 7 voted no, and 1 abstained.

Reports of pastors Pastor Matt Hickman was absent due to a meeting planning the MCUSA Youth conference for 2017. Pastor Tim Schrag reviewed major items in his report, and referred to and thanked all the people who helped launch True Story. One of those people was Chris Culbertson, who then spoke about the positive spiritual changes that have come to her because of her involvement in this project. Pastor Jane Roeschley reflected on being in her 16th year, and on the Undoing Racism Conversation, Area Clusters, and field trips (e.g. Immanuel Health Center).

Financial Stewardship Report Adam Augspurger, Treasurer, thanked the congregation for giving, especially at the end of the year, which helped MCN meet 2015 Spending Plan obligations. Cindy Ropp moved, and Mary Dyck seconded the motion to approve the 2016 Spending Plan.

Approval of church reports The Reports as submitted in the Annual Reports 2015 document were approved. John Stutzman made the motion, and Judy Hershberger seconded the motion to approve the Reports. *Later note: corrections were made to pages 1, 30-35 and the corrected Report posted on the MCN website.*

Report on behalf of church chair Wayne Hochstetler, Chair, indicated that an error had been made on the agenda. The agenda listed this section as Report from the Church Board, but should have been listed as Report from the Church Chair. *Later note: this was corrected in the Final version of the Annual Report.* Wayne's presentation followed the PowerPoint which accompanied these minutes.

Closing The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Lynn Reha, Recording Secretary

Congregational Meeting
Sunday, May 15, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Congregational meeting May 15, 2016

Opening Wayne Hochstetler opened the meeting at 1:10. His opening remarks contained the following points:

- This meeting will be informational rather than decision-making.
- This informational meeting and answering questions helps the Board remain close to the work of the congregation.
- The process of change for the Board started with Deep Roots, New Growth process of 20 months ago.
- The Board has studied *Governance and Ministry* (Hotchkiss) and described what the main points of the book might look like at MCN.
- None of what the Board is sharing has constitutional implications; these values, organizational structure and roles and responsibilities have to do with how we operate within the constitutional structure.

Pivotal Documents Board members described the content of the following documents:

1. Core Values
 - a. Based on Discernment Document of 2011
 - b. Theologically based rather than culturally based
 - c. If Christianity were a nation, Mennonite would be a state, and MCN is our street address
2. Roles and Responsibilities Chart
 - a. Chart idea came from *Governance and Ministry* book—adapted by Board
 - b. Both Eric and Wayne emphasized that staff, Board and Congregation are all responsible to discern the will of God
3. Roles and Responsibilities Document
 - a. Role of Congregation
 - b. Role of Church Board
 - c. Role of Staff
 - d. This chart helps us say that we are working together.
4. MCN Organizational Structure Church
 - a. Adopted by Board April 14, 2015
 - b. Translates Constitution into graph form
 - c. Denotes lines of authority (who reports to whom).
5. Covenant
 - a. Church Board has used a variety of activities to create bonds together and they are articulated in this covenant, signed by the church board members.

Wayne read from a copy of the Scripture bookmark given to each Board member and described a practice available to the Board during meetings. Colossians 3: 15-17 has been adopted by Board as the Scripture for the year. It may be used in this way: If at any point a member of the church board is feeling uncomfortable, that person can call for the reading of the Scripture, as a pause to reflect on discerning God's will.

Pastor Tim Scrag reflected on how the documents might be useful to the congregation. It helps the directing of "traffic" and decision-making. It injects clarity. These documents help in membership class.

Questions The following questions were asked by the assembled audience.

- ✓ How do we HEAR a VISION? This is both semantics and a challenge to pastors—how DO we hear God's vision?
- ✓ Were Peace and Justice and Wellness always independent committees? No, they were once subcommittees. Peace & Justice was a subcommittee of Outreach, and Wellness was a subcommittee of the Pastoral Council. Board recognized them as committees in their own right recently.
- ✓ Comment: The Holy Spirit is always talking to us. We need to get the clutter out of the way. We can ALL be hearing the Spirit so we can hear that vision more clearly.
- ✓ Pastor Tim Scrag commented: Roles and Responsibilities is an active and dynamic chart, and sometime parts are smaller and larger. All board members and pastors are church members.

Closing Meeting ended at 2:00 with prayer led pastor Jane Roeschley

Lynn Reha, Recording Secretary

Congregational Meeting November 13, 2016

Opening Wayne Hochstetler opened the meeting at 1:10. His opening remarks contained the following points:

1. This meeting will be informational rather than decision-making.
2. This informational meeting and answering questions helps the Board remain close to the work of the congregation.
3. The process of change for the Board started with Deep Roots, New Growth process of 20 months ago.
4. The Board has studied *Governance and Ministry* (Hotchkiss) and described what the main points of the book might look like at MCN.
5. None of what the Board is sharing has constitutional implications; these values, organizational structure and roles and responsibilities have to do with how we operate within the constitutional structure.

Pivotal Documents Board members described the content of the following documents:

6. Core Values
 - a. Based on Discernment Document of 2011
 - b. Theologically based rather than culturally based
 - c. If Christianity were a nation, Mennonite would be a state, and MCN is our street address
7. Roles and Responsibilities Chart
 - a. Chart idea came from *Governance and Ministry* book—adapted by Board
 - b. Both Eric Miller and Wayne Hochstetler emphasized that staff, Board and Congregation are all responsible to discern the will of God.
8. Roles and Responsibilities Document
 - a. Role of Congregation
 - b. Role of Church Board
 - c. Role of Staff
 - d. This chart helps us say that we are working together.
9. MCN Organizational Structure Church
 - a. Adopted by Board April 14, 2015
 - b. Translates Constitution into graph form
 - c. Denotes lines of authority (who reports to whom).
10. Covenant
 - a. Church Board has used a variety of activities to create bonds together and they are articulated in this covenant, signed by the church board members.

Wayne read from a copy of the Scripture bookmark given to each Board member and described a practice available to the Board during meetings. Colossians 3: 15-17 has been adopted by Board as the Scripture for the year. It may be used in this way: If at any point a member of the church board is feeling uncomfortable, that person can call for the reading of the Scripture, as a pause to reflect on discerning God's will.

Pastor Tim Schrag reflected on how the documents might be useful to the congregation. It helps the directing of "traffic" and decision-making. It injects clarity. These documents help in membership class.

Questions The following questions were asked by the assembled audience.

*How do we HEAR a VISION? This is both semantics and a challenge to pastors—how DO we hear God's vision?

*Were Peace and Justice and Wellness always independent committees? (No, they were once subcommittees. Peace & Justice was a subcommittee of Outreach, and Wellness was a subcommittee of the Pastoral Council. Board recognized them as committees in their own right recently.)

*Comment: The Holy Spirit is always talking to us. We need to get the clutter out of the way. We can ALL be hearing the Spirit so we can hear that vision more clearly.

*Pastor Tim Schrag commented: Roles and Responsibilities is an active and dynamic chart, and sometime parts are smaller or larger. All board members and pastors are church members.

Closing Meeting ended at 2:00 pm with prayer led Pastor Jane Roeschley

Lynn Reha, Recording Secretary

Lead Pastor Tim Schrag

One year ago I wrote the following in my 2015 Pastor's Report to the congregation.

In 2016, in addition to putting energy into 'the usual' as listed above, I will be especially focused on the following:

- A. *The "True Story" project, involving administration, weekly teacher resourcing, and some teaching.*
- B. *The congregational vote in February 2016 extending another call to me for 5 years, which offers an opportune time for me to consider longer term goals*
- C. *Further clarification of the congregational organizational patterns (in conjunction with the Church Board, the congregation, and the other staff)*
- D. *Finding fruitful and helpful ways to form communication loops that will hold all of us accountable to the Kingdom tasks and ministries we have committed to undertaking*

2016 is now past, and I find that points A, C, D were in fact items of focus for me. But it would be misleading to imply that I was alone in these initiatives. Nor was I even necessarily the 'leader'. As has been the case since I began here as pastor, the contributions of various lay persons have been indispensable. It is most accurate to say that I have had a role in these ministries, as have many others. I am most gratified at the way that they continue to bear fruit. [Point B, another 5-year call, was important but I'm not sure how to report its 'meaning']

Then, again excerpting from the past years' report:

The customary rhythms of congregational life continued. These included sad goodbyes to deceased members, joyous dedications of newborns, baptisms, warm welcomes to new congregational attendees and fond farewells to those departing. Additionally, congregational life involves encouragement, teaching, prayer, counsel, comfort, fellowship, fun, and consolation. Sometimes my pastoral role is to take the lead. Much more often I watch appreciatively and (I hope) encouragingly as congregational members and my staff colleagues (Matt, Jane, Lynn) themselves manifest Christ's love.

In general, my roles of preaching, administration, and pastoral care continued without substantial change.

To the above I would add several points of emphasis for 2016, and then look forward to 2017.

- A. Area Clusters continue to bear fruit in very significant ways. I feel they are a very important component of our congregation. They allow us to be geographically sprawling and distant, yet pay appropriate attention to all, including newcomers.
- B. The national elections of 2016 challenged all of us to practice honest "Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love". I think Mennonite Church of Normal enters 2017 with ongoing challenges in this regard, but with our essential congregational unity intact. I have needed to work hard to stay emotionally and spiritually grounded in this regard, and to stay connected to all.
- C. The fall CE studies in "The Gospel of John" have been very personally meaningful for me in my own spiritual life. I have invested time in the weekly teachers' meeting on Wednesday evenings, and I've led one "John" class.
- D. During the fall of 2016, I started attending YMC meetings, and [occasionally] attending MYF meetings on Sunday evenings. This was to orient myself to assume some of Pastor Matt's responsibilities during his sabbatical in early 2017.

Looking forward to 2017, I know that the Church Board will be setting priorities for 2017 and beyond, at a retreat in early March. I don't presume to know what will be decided, so I can't really identify all of my 2017 emphases. However, there are several things I do know.

1. I have accepted a position of the Illinois Mennonite Sale board (MCC sale).
2. I will be filling in for Pastor Matt in significant ways, during his sabbatical
3. Correspondingly, I will reduce my preaching load by one Sunday a month during Pastor Matt's sabbatical time.

I again submit myself to the Lord's guidance, and ask you for your prayers for the congregation and myself in my role as pastor.

Associate Pastor of Worship and Lay Ministries
Jane Roeschley

This half-time ministry continues to focus on the weekly and seasonal rhythms of worship, on supporting lay ministries, and on pastoral care and administration. I work closely with Outreach Committee, Worship Committee, and Pastoral Council. I had a sabbatical this year from staffing Leadership Selection Committee.

Monthly Understanding White Privilege and Undoing Racism conversations continued into May. Special thanks to Amy Reiman and Phil Dick for their contributions. One very informative evening was in January with Rev. Cyneatha Millsaps, pastor at Community Mennonite in Markham, IL and the African-American Story Quilt from her congregation. The purpose of those monthly conversations was to not only educate ourselves, but to also challenge ourselves to move into real actions for dismantling systemic racism in our congregation and in this community. Looking ahead, Amy Reiman and David Harnish will be leading a CE elective centered on the book, *The New Jim Crow*.

As one way to put intention to helping dismantle systemic racism into action, I began volunteering one afternoon a month as a pastor on the Spiritual Prayer Team at Immanuel Health Center, located on the west side of Bloomington, a medically under-served part of town. It is my privilege to pray with any patients who wish to have prayer during their visit with the medical staff. Effort is also underway to develop another Bridge of Hope support group for a client at Home Sweet Home Ministries.

The Area Cluster ministries continue with purpose and vigor. Some of the leadership has changed, but each one continues to be a meaningful way for more caring and connection in the congregation. Pastor Tim and I provide support to all the Cluster Leaders via regular gatherings. I also continue to serve as an interim Cluster Leader for the NE Cluster.

The Church Board tasked me with being their staff liaison in implementing Experience-based Feedback Groups as a way to enhance our ministry as a congregation. I am working with 8 persons who are facilitating feedback sessions for Advent worship, preaching, and Church Board participation. There will be more to come in the future.

It has been a great joy to serve during CE hour with Lynette Miller in co-leading the Creative Response class for the Biblical Overview (True Story) series and with Elsa Raab in co-leading the Lectio Divina for the Gospel of John class this fall. What a privilege to be part of both groups - as well as the Wednesday evening Teachers' preparation sessions led by Pastor Tim -- where persons are going deeper with God and finding creative ways to express that. There is no greater joy for me as a pastor than when persons draw closer to Jesus/God!

Election Day Communion was a new worship event this year with 40 persons attending. We also enjoyed a wonderful Reign of Christ Feast nontraditional Communion in November where all partook.

Walking with persons in need of pastoral care due to loss and grief, changes in their lives, the desire for spiritual direction, or simply needing a listening ear is a deep and very holy privilege.

Administrative tasks are a necessary undergirding of the work of ministry. They include scheduling, writing articles, reports and references, ordering supplies, making phone calls, doing email, and ministry planning, etc., etc.

The rest, rejuvenation and inspiration from my time on pilgrimage in the UK during Sabbatical continue to bring gifts to my life and ministry. Another Thank You to you, MCN, for that time in ministry focused on other things!

Associate Pastor of Youth and Family Life
Matthew D. Hickman

- January holds Winter Youth Retreats for both junior and senior high youth. We attended again the retreats held at Menno Haven. The camp puts on quality program weekends and these are a great time for group building and meeting youth from other congregations.
- A one evening Family Fun Night event was held in April to see if better weather would increase numbers. Only holding one night did concentrate attendance which might have been hit or miss, but the overall attendance was less than hoped for. Christian Education will retool the event for 2017 or let it pass and look at new activities.
- In early summer I officiated the wedding of Jessica Lee and Jake Callahan.
- The high school youth, sponsors, and I participated in a week of summer service with Mennonite Central Committee's SWAP (Sharing with Appalachian People) program in Hindman, KY. This marks the third time I have taken a group to Hindman. This year, as in past years, the MCC site leaders and the work we did for and relationships we built with homeowners was world view shaping for the youth. Thank you to Annette Harnish, Mike Company, David Warfel, Adam Augspurger, for chaperoning and being supervisor-mentors.
- This fall I have co-taught the Kindergarten and First Grade Sunday School class with Annette Harnish. What a delightful age group to teach!
- I have been humbled to provide pastoral care to families in the congregation and am very glad to be of service in these times of need.
- Using my vacation days, I served in the last half of the year at Home Sweet Home Ministries in Bloomington once a week as a counseling intern as part of my continuing education at Lincoln Christian Seminary.
- In our Sunday night youth group meetings we have experienced a shift in group composition. The group size in junior high is somewhat smaller this year, while the highest attendance at high school youth has been 27 including adults; consistently in high school meetings we have had an average of 16 youth attending.
- The youth have held a number of fundraisers toward attendance at the 2017 youth convention in Orlando. We will have 20 youth registered to attend! Thank you for your generosity!
- Our youth musicians continue to grow and thrive in their talents and ministry contributions!
- The MCN Church Board approved my sabbatical for January 23 through May 8, 2017. I will be working full-time at Home Sweet Home Ministries in Bloomington as a Counselor-intern as part of my continuing education at Lincoln Christian Seminary. I plan to graduate in May with a Master of Arts in Clinical Counseling and licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with the families, children, and youth of our congregation!

Membership Statistics

| | | |
|--|--------------|-----|
| Membership as of January 1, 2016 | | 298 |
| Members gained by Letter of Transfer | | 4 |
| Elsa Raab | April 3 | |
| Joe Culpepper (Associate Member) | April 3 | |
| Lynette Miller | April 3 | |
| Darrel Miller | April 3 | |
| Members gained by Affirmation of Faith | | 5 |
| Helena Maudene Driscoll | April 3 | |
| Nathan Miller | August 7 | |
| Owen Kettering | October 23 | |
| Joshua Friesen | October 23 | |
| Lydia Hedberg | October 23 | |
| Loss of Members by Transfer | | (6) |
| Jason Haas | April 11 | |
| Abby Reel | April 11 | |
| Barbara Gillespie | August 15 | |
| Spencer Gillespie | August 15 | |
| Peter Roth | December 30 | |
| Carolyn Roth | December 30 | |
| Loss of Member by Request | | |
| Steven Ropp | June 9 | (1) |
| Loss of Member by Death | | |
| Rachel Zehr | September 14 | (1) |
| Membership as of December 31, 2016 | | 299 |
| | | |
| Births | | |
| Peyton Marie Stalter to Travis and Carrie Stalter | August 2 | |

Officers and Committee Members for 2017

* indicates committee chair for the year

| Committee or Position | Continuing Members | Persons Affirmed to start 2017 Term (may be renewing) |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Church Chairperson | Wayne Hochstetler (2018) -1st term | |
| Treasurer | Adam Augspurger (2018)–2nd term | |
| Assistant Treasurer | Mary Alice Hertzler (2018)–1st term | |
| Church Board | Cindy Ropp (2017)–1 st term Rick Satchwell (2017)–1 st term Larry Schrader (2018)–2 nd term Janet Wilson (2018)-1 st term | Eric Miller (2019)– 2 nd term Mary Ann Watkins (2019)– 2 nd term |
| Christian Education Committee | Shelly Nester King (2017)–1 st term *Beth Reeser (2017)–2 nd term | Marcia Rossi (2018)– 3 rd term Alena Culbertson (2018) --1 st term |
| Fellowship Committee | Tim Kauffman (2017)–2nd term *Leanne Schertz (2017)–1st term | Gerry Schrock (2018)–1 st term Marge Weaver (2018)–1 st term |
| Financial Stewardship Committee | *Linda Clemmons (2017)–2 nd term Gail Fisher (2017)–3 rd term Rick Yoder (2017)–2 nd term | |
| Outreach Committee | | *Phil Dick (2018)– 2 nd term Dorothy Zehr (2018)– 2 nd term Phyllis Versteegh (2018)--1 st term Rochelle Augspurger (2018)--1 st term |
| Pastoral Council | Lois Hochstetler (2019)–1 st term *Steve Stenger (2017)–1 st term Keith Unzicker (2018)–1 st term | Melika Hershberger (2020) 1 st term |
| Worship Committee | Louise Reeser (2017)–2 nd term Randy Zehr (2017)–2 nd term | Lynette Miller (2018)--1 st term Julie Musselman (2018)--1 st term) *Cindy Ropp (2018)– 3 rd term |
| Youth Ministry Committee | *Todd Kettering (2017)–2 nd term Chellie Miller (2017)–1 st term Lauren Satchwell (2017)–3 rd term | Darvis King (2018)– 2 nd term |

The Leadership Selection Committee members in 2016 were Wayne Hochstetler, and Shelly King (Chair), Lauren Satchwell, and Randy Zehr. Pastor Jane Roeschley is the staff liaison for this committee, with Pastor Tim Schrag taking those responsibilities when Pastor Jane was on Sabbatical leave.

Church Board Report

The Church Board for 2016 consisted of members Eric Miller, Cindy Ropp, Rick Satchwell, Larry Schrader, Mary Ann Watkins, Janet Wilson, and Wayne Hochstetler, as Church Chairperson. We typically met on the second Tuesday of the month. The board worked well and hard together. Over the course of the year all board members opened the meetings with worship.

The Board chose to use a retreat in February to continue to define the various roles and responsibilities of the Board, the Congregation, and the Staff. This resulted in a series of charts and statements which were shared in a congregational meeting in May, 2016.

This Board is committed to work with the future of the congregation in mind. To that end we worked long and carefully to craft a vision statement for the congregation, which speaks to what we wish the congregation to be in the future. We also wrote a mission statement which expresses how we work as a congregation. These were shared in the congregational meeting in November, where we received some very helpful feedback. The Board is continuing to shape a final version of these statements.

In light of the liability issues brought to our attention by our insurance carrier, it is necessary by June, 2017, to discontinue using the present Head Start playground located on the south side of our building. This playground will be re-located to the northwest side of the building, adjacent to the present Head Start entrance. A group from the Board has been working with Head Start to find a good way to proceed on this issue together. A plan is being finalized, and will be presented at the Annual Congregational meeting on January 22, 2017.

The Board looked at ways in which feedback is gathered to strengthen the work of the congregation and staff. To that end we have initiated Experience-Based Feedback Groups, and the first trial experiences are in process. This was inspired by the book, *Completing the Circle*, by David McMahill. We are eager to learn how persons experience this process.

The Board continues to seek ways to hear from the various groups and committees regarding their work on behalf of the congregation. Each committee is asked to submit their minutes to the Board whenever they meet, and to submit both an annual and a semi-annual report to the Board. These reports, due in December and June, are then used by the Board to assess the on-going work of the congregation. The minutes of every meeting are read by the Board members monthly to keep in touch with the work of our committees.

During the course of the year, the Board was very pleased to learn of a group who prays regularly for each member of the Board, and for the work of the Board. This symbolizes the pattern of partnership which the board wishes to have with the various members of the congregation. We solicit each of you to find a way to express that relationship.

During 2016 Pastor Jane completed her sabbatical; her review will be conducted during 2017. Pastor Matt will be undertaking his internship for his counseling degree program at Lincoln Christian Seminary, with Home Sweet Home Ministries, during this coming year as well. He will take sabbatical time to complete this requirement.

With appreciation to each of the board members for their dedicated work, I submit this report.

Wayne Hochstetler, Church Chair

Pastoral Council Annual Report

The pastoral council for 2016 was comprised of Keith Unzicker, Lois Hochstetler, Hazel Yoder and Steve Stenger as chair. Also serving from the pastoral staff are Tim Schrag, Jane Roeschley and Matt Hickman.

Our monthly meetings are spent offering council and support to our pastoral staff, reporting on contacts made to individuals and families as to their personal and spiritual well being and praying for those concerns and joys. We also are responsible for the adult Christian Education hour on Sundays. There have been several situations this year that has allowed us to disperse mutual aid funds as well as funds received from Everence matching grants. Each member of the committee feels it a privilege to be involved in the ministry of helping in situations where council and resources can be shared. The planning, preparation and serving of communion several times a year as well as other rituals of our congregation enriches our lives as well as those participating.

Our parish nurse, Marge Nester, meets periodically with the council offering updates and concerns.

This year marks the end to Hazel Yoder's two terms and we offer her our deepest gratitude to her steadfast compassion and wise council. We will miss her. Her leaving however gives us the opportunity to welcome to the council Melika Hershberger.

We continue to seek God's will as we work to serve this congregation and its leaders.

Steve Stenger, Chair

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee shall, in conjunction with the Pastors, give oversight to the worship life of the congregation. - MCN Committee Handbook

Committee members include Jane Roeschley/pastoral staff, Cindy Ropp/chair, Randy Zehr, and Louise Reeser.

The focus of our work this year included:

- facilitating worship experiences based around the True Story experience for the congregation. We are especially appreciative of the quilt squares Sue Schrag graciously created to beautify our worship space, and challenge us with visual representations of the sermon focus.
- continued working through elements of the worship service, including:
 - use of the screen during worship, and determining when the screen will be up or down when not in use
 - considering time constraints of the worship services
 - recording of the worship services, especially enhancing the recording of music
- supporting the musical gifts of our congregation, especially youth musicians, accompanists, and soloists as they regularly share in our Sunday morning services.
- organizing and presenting the Fine Arts recital showcasing the talents of numerous young people in our congregation on May 15 - the recital was well attended and enthusiastically received.
- supporting the Junior, Youth, and Adult Choirs through the purchase of choral music
- shouldering responsibility for Sunday worship planning while Jane was on sabbatical during the summer.
- facilitated special worship events including the Christ the King banquet and the Election Communion service.
- seasonal worship series: For Lent/Easter and Advent/Christmas, we plan and create worship services around a theme for the entire series. Lent/Easter this year was shaped to a large extent by the True Story series. Special choral music was presented by all three choirs. During Advent/Christmas we created worship services around the theme of The Holy Way - Walking in God's Heart. A very special part of holy seasons is the strong presence of our 3 choirs.

The work of the Worship Committee often lies in organization of events and empowerment of individuals. It is through the gifts of so many others who beautifully share during our worship that our services breathe life. We are grateful for your willingness to partner with us.

Cindy Ropp, Chair

Christian Education Committee

The 2016 Christian Education committee was comprised of Beth Reeser, Marcia Rossi, Shelly King and Pastor Matt Hickman.

A Three Kings Extravaganza was not held this past year due to low attendance the previous year, difficulty finding a date that would work, and a CE committee staff shortage.

Due to low attendance on the 3 Family Fun Nights in 2015, we decided to try going back to one night for 2016. Family Fun Night was held on Wednesday, April 13. It was later in the year in an attempt to avoid bad weather and illness that possibly affected attendance previous years. The committee provided the main dish--Zehr Farms Pork BBQ--while others donated additional side items and dessert. The event was well attended with 70+ in attendance. The theme was "Jesus Sprouts" discussing the parable of the sower and was spearheaded by Pastor Matt. A bounce house was rented and other activities included planting seeds, carnival type game, and art. It was a beautiful evening and everyone who participated enjoyed the meal, activities, and worship.

Several families made use of the student passport program to help defray costs for summer camp.

\$450 was sent to Basha, a Bangladesh nonprofit that helps women and their children who are homeless in Mymensingh, Bangladesh. Funds were collected from the Children's Offering from January-August 2016. Meghan Reha worked there with MCC and was our contact person. The current Noisy Offering collected will go to His Safe Haven in Liberia, where Blessing Hickman had been living.

Sunday school classes were split into four classes this fall: a four- and five-year old class, a Kdgn./1st grade class, a 2nd/3rd grade class, and a 4th/5th grade class. We are in the third year of the new "Shine" curriculum. The 4th/5th grade class is studying the book of John, following the adult and high school Sunday school class topic. They are using the curriculum designed for their age group, Spotlight on Jesus. This curriculum looks at the book of John through the lens of a movie director, studying the star of the show (Jesus!) and his supporting cast.

Parents and some volunteers from the congregation staffed summer classes so that the regular teachers get a much-needed break. We split the classes into two larger classes during this time. We spent another gorgeous Sunday afternoon at Sugar Grove Nature Center on July 10.

Beth Reeser, Acting Chair

Fellowship Committee

The Leadership Selection Committee was unable to find volunteers for this committee before the annual meeting in January 2016. Hearing a request for volunteers, I offered to coordinate fellowship activities if I could find help when needed. I am grateful to Tim Schrag, the staff representative to Fellowship. Together we laid out a tentative calendar for the year's fellowship events and then sought volunteers for individual tasks.

Tim Kauffman coordinated the Sunday morning coffee fellowship time with Leroy Loepp and Diane Wiman.

Several meals held in conjunction with congregational meetings were organized by the youth group, who were eager to use these events for fund-raising to defray the cost of attending Assembly in Orlando in 2017.

An ad hoc committee organized a well-attended Easter Breakfast on March 27. This event seems to be a favorite and will continue for another year.

The annual Menno Haven Sunday was held on August 7. Special thanks to Joelle Friesen, who organized the worship time. The camp staff, as always, is helpful and accommodating. This event was also popular and will continue next year.

We held a "Soup and Pie" potluck in October on a Sunday without a congregational meeting scheduled. The event received good reviews. And why not, when the best soup makers and pie bakers brought out all their wares! Being able to visit after the meal without having to break promptly for a meeting was a welcome change in our routine.

As in past years, surprise lunches were held again on the first Sunday of December. A special thank you to those who hosted this year. It is apparent that December calendars are filled with seasonal conflicts for many people. As a result, next year's planning committee will change the date of surprise lunches.

A new fellowship activity was begun this year. Elfriede Massier and Lois Hochstetler volunteered to send birthday cards on behalf of the church family to all members of the congregation. With only a few exceptions, these were placed in church mailboxes. The gesture was appreciated and enjoyed and will continue next year.

I am pleased that there will be a 5-member Fellowship Committee functioning next year.

Leanne Schertz, 2016 Fellowship Coordinator

Financial Stewardship Committee

Our committee once again had a busy year with the largest portion of our time consisting of maintaining and, as necessary, upgrading our “physical plant”. We also monitor the finances of our church and prepare the Annual Spending Plan.

Following are highlights of our year-

Plans continued with Heartland Headstart on the replacement of the playground equipment. It looks as if they will be able to fund new equipment in 2017 from their budget and that our responsibility will be to remove the old equipment and do work on the new playground area. We have committed to erecting the fence that will be required around the equipment area.

We continued support for Lydia Wilson in her campus ministry in Spain and supported Rachel Ropp in a mission trip she took during the year.

We continued our plan for replacing most of the heating and cooling units in the church. Most of these units are at least 20 years old and have reached the end of their useful life. We are on schedule to have all the units replaced by the end of calendar year 2017.

Our other major project for 2016 was the replacement of a large amount of carpet in our building. The new carpet is actually “squares” which have the advantage of being easily replaced as needed. This work was completed in November.

Prepared the Annual Spending Plan.

We ended the fiscal year 2016 with a deficit. We were significantly behind in our needs at the end of November, and had good gains in December; however, our expenses exceeded our income.

Our committee structure will change in 2017. Doug Ulrich goes off the committee and Linda Clemmons will take over as chairperson. There is still one member yet to be announced. Members of the committee will be: Adam Augspurger (Treasurer), Linda Clemmons, Gail Fisher, Lynn Reha (Staff), and Rick Yoder.

Doug Ulrich, Financial Stewardship Chair

Outreach Committee

Members of the Committee: Rick Reha, Ardys Serpette, Dorothy Zehr, Gerlof Homan and Philip Dick. Jane Roeschley provided staff support.

Business this year included:

1. Monthly conversations of white privilege and dismantling racism were conducted at the Mennonite Church of Normal (MCN) from January through May. On January 19th we had a well-attended gathering at MCN that began with a planning meal followed by a presentation by Pastor Cyneatha Millsaps from the Community Mennonite Church in Markham, IL about the quilt the women of Markham and Silverwood Mennonite Church created to re-tell the African-American story of brutality and hope;
2. Sponsored a presentation by Pastor Cyneatha Millsaps on January 18, the Martin Luther King Holiday, at MCN titled "Potential for Peace and Hope in Israel/Palestine and the History of an Interracial Congregation" (Community Mennonite Church in Markham, IL);
3. Phil Dick did a presentation at MCN on January 24th on his Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)/Mennonite Church (MC) USA sponsored learning tour that he took in Palestine/Israel in November 2015 - Jewish and Arab visitors also attended - he explained how difficult it is for Palestinians to live in an area occupied by the Israeli Military;
4. Helped with a \$200 contribution to MC USA for funding assistance for a one year Mennonite Voluntary Service position to support Palestinian and Israeli partners in peacemaking - this is a new initiative within MC USA to partner with peacemakers in Palestine and Israel as a follow up to a resolution passed at the convention in Kansas City committing ourselves to support Palestinian and Israeli partners in peacemaking;
5. Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale - March 18 & 19 - Marcia Rossi and Gerry Schrock assisted Roelie Homan in coordinating MCN's participation;
6. Helped with a \$500 contribution to Joelle Friesen's Summer Service Inquiry Program at Goshen College;
7. Leo and Bess Desch served on a Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) assignment in Lusk, WY from March 21-26 and Lois Hochstetler served on an MDS assignment in Detroit, MI;
8. Worked with Laura Dick to continue to develop a VORP program;
9. We met on August 11 with Michelle Cook, the director of Joy Care's Jobs Partnership. The Jobs Partnership, to which the committee contributed \$500, includes mentoring for ex-offenders, support group meetings and classes for anyone unemployed, underemployed, or hard to employ. Michelle Cook teaches classes every Friday night at the McLean County Jail and is involved with other ministries in town including the Immanuel Health Clinic where she works periodically with Pastor Jane. Phil Dick and Ardys Serpette attended several of the Jobs Partnership meetings/activities;
10. Helped with a \$500 contribution to the Chicago Mennonite Early Learning Center Program which is a ministry of the Community Mennonite Church in Markham, IL;
11. Helped with the "MCC Loss of Turtle Island simulation" on August 28 at the MCN, that was also attended by members of other area Mennonite Churches; and

12. The Alternative Gifts Fair with the help of Roelie Homan, Meredith Schroeer, Abby Warfel and Sophie Charles was a tremendous success that raised \$21,629 - \$14,550 for MCC and \$7,139 for Alternative Gifts International.

Submitted by Philip Dick, Outreach Committee Chair

Youth Ministry for 2016

The Youth Ministry Committee expresses its deep gratitude for your prayers and support for our youth activities during the previous year as the MCN youth programs are doing well overall and again we have been blessed with both consistent youth attendance and participation as well as caring and devoted sponsors and leaders.

The Youth Ministry Committee assisted with planning and logistical matters for the summer MYF service trip to Hindman, Kentucky where they served with the Mennonite Central Committee program SWAP (Sharing with Appalachian People). This is the third group that Pastor Matt has taken to Hindman. Sixteen youth, four sponsors, and Pastor Matt participated. A special thank you to sponsors Annette Harnish, David Warfel, Mike Company, and Adam Augspurger.

Planning has begun for MYF attendance at the 2017 youth convention of Mennonite Church USA to be held in Orlando, FL. The committee thank the congregation for their generosity in giving at youth fundraiser events held this year. With a group of twenty-five planning to attend, including sponsors, the cost is significant. Part of the expense is covered through spending plan allocations, part through family contributions, and the remainder through fundraising.

The MYF has grown significantly, with a peak attendance of twenty-seven, including five adults, at the December Christmas party. The JMYF is somewhat smaller, and the typically-attending group is comprised of only boys.

A sincere thank you to those who have served during 2016: JMYF sponsors Chris & Cory Culbertson, and assistants Lotus and Judy Hershberger; MYF sponsors Mike Company, Gabriella Harnish, and Jeremy Haab; and Pastor Matt Hickman.

I would also thank our committee: Darvis King, Chellie Miller and Lauren Satchwell who faithfully served on Youth Ministry Committee this past year and will continue to serve for the coming year.

Thank you for allowing us to continue our efforts in the coming year to guide our youth activities in the name of and under the guidance of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Todd Kettering, Chair

Peace and Justice Committee

Advent is a time in which we share in the yearning of all those who, in their suffering and struggle, long for redemption and liberation, for unity, for peace, for a golden age - for a manifestation of God's love and unity, for a breaking in of his justice among the nations.

Today we are convinced that there still is One who will create peace and social justice for everyone. We expect him and thus long with a humble spirit that his rulership is recognized in every country. When this happens, he will turn bloody weapons into tools for work, and we shall become true brothers and sisters. This is what we want to think of when we approach the season of Jesus' birth.

However, like the prophets of old, we also need to feel the outrageous injustice that exists within society today and how heavy a burden this is. Injustice ought to stir our hearts; the lack of peace in a world bristling with weapons should haunt us. Disunity exists not only among nations, but also in the midst of every nation. Advent is a time when we await God's intervention in the need of the present day, as he intervened then in Jesus' birth. We long for the highest power to rescue this unhappy, torn humanity that knows so little community. Now is the time to ask God for a radical change in all things, even if this means we must go through judgment.

“The Eve of Advent” by Eberhard Arnold, via Plough Magazine

This year our Peace and Justice group was removed from under the Outreach umbrella and elevated to a committee status of its own. Broadly speaking, your Peace and Justice Committee spent this year encouraging one another in individual peace and justice efforts, maintaining ties and support of MCC, exploring links with fellow organization and individuals in our community, and working to inform and involve the congregation in peace and justice related issues.

Collectively and as a group, the Peace and Justice committee:

- Continued, especially in the first half of the year, to work with VORP, the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program. Laura Dick heads this effort, and keeps the group informed of their progress and needs. It is moving forward, slowly but steadily.
- Encouraged members to attend MCN's "Undoing Racism" meetings as well as local "Black Lives Matter" and "Not In Our Town" meetings and events.
- Continued our membership in and support of IPA, the Illinois People's Action group. They continue to advocate for clean energy and against exploitative payday loans.
- Heard from Phil Dick about his participation in the Learning Tour to Palestine and Israel, sponsored by the Mennonite Church USA and MCC Great Lakes region.
- Staffed a booth at the MCC Relief Sale in March, offering visitors to the sale information about current peace and justice issues, sign an anti-gerrymandering petition, and have the chance to talk to friendly folks on related issues.
- Publicized an MCC presentation on West Africa in Peoria, April.
- Worked with the church board and Lynn to purchase a "no guns" sign for our front entrance.
- Continued the annual effort of informing parents of their right to opt-out of military recruiting rights for their children, and provided the form to them.

- Disbursed an “Election Resource” from MCC to the congregation that detailed ways to approach politicians and issues important to Mennonites. Advertised and hosted a follow-up candidate visit opportunity with Rep. Davis.
- Helped MCN host the MCC program “Loss of Turtle Island Simulation”, Aug. 28, 2016
- Provided an election-themed meditation/response in the wake of a tumultuous election season and result. Are staying alert to other responses and needs that arise in the coming months, in our community and nationwide.
- Attended the YMCA’s “Humanity Summit”, set up to explore cultural and systemic oppression in our community and how we can become allies in the struggle for justice.
- Disbursed the funds entrusted to us by the church as follows:
 - \$250 to the Shakya Family/Living Water Fellowship for church work in Nepal.

I would like to thank our Committee members for their dedication and hard work this past year: John Bertsche, Meredith Schroerer, Phil Dick, Gerlof Homan, Joe Jantze, and Secretary Gabriella Harnish. Additional thanks to Phil Dick, who took over Secretary responsibilities from Gabriella in Nov. Our best thanks to Pastor Tim Schrag for his invaluable counsel. We are hoping that others in the church will feel led to join us.

Abby Warfel, Chair

Wellness Committee

2016 was a historic year as the Wellness Committee became an official committee of Mennonite Church of Normal. The Wellness Committee members met on a monthly basis. Those members included Marge Nester, Vivian Hubbard, Deb Stenger, Bess Desch, Sophie Charles, and Leah Roeschley. The first several months were spent reaching out to many church participants to see if there was interest in joining the committee. In late spring, Gabriella Harnish visited one meeting and decided to commit to being a part of the team.

MCN was the site of two successful blood drives, one in April and one in November. It continues to be a drive that has a full schedule and keeps the Red Cross employees busy. Marge Nester serves as the lead contact person and donor recruiter.

A CPR Training was sponsored by the Wellness Committee this year. Six church members attended and received training by Char Troyer. This was held after a church member requested that there be a training held for the church.

The Wellness Committee also teamed with the McLean County Health Dept to conduct a Functional Needs Mapping survey of the county. McLean County residents were encouraged to answer a questionnaire that will aid the county in preparing for disaster relief.

There was some cooperation with MCN and Mennonite College of Nursing this year. A welcome breakfast was held for the new dean of the college. This was a time of sharing and ideas were exchanged on how the nursing students could participate and collaborate with Mennonite and faith communities. The Wellness Committee also promoted a presentation that was given by two students pursuing their Masters in Nursing. The presentation was held in the MRC.

Marge Nester, as Parish Nurse, continues to make frequent contacts with those who are ill in the congregation. She also performs routine blood pressure checks. She provides a listening ear to those who are experiencing lows in life. She provides transportation and is always willing to be an advocate for individuals at their medical appointments.

The Wellness Committee and Parish Nurse will continue to explore ideas on how they might better serve those in their journey for (w)holistic health.

Leah Roeschley, Chair

Parish Nurse

Much of my report is the same from year to year because much of what I do remains the same. Since I strive to keep confidential the details about what I do, let me share about my role. I hope this will be helpful for those of you who are new to our congregation or may have less frequent contact with the Parish Nurse.

I strive to be a caregiver in a congregation of many caregivers. Our congregation is blessed with many persons who are active in this role. Our Pastoral Care committee and our Wellness committee work side by side with me to attempt to speak to the caregiving needs of our congregation. I appreciate their support and counsel. I also appreciate those of you within the congregation who inform me of needs that you see as well as those who reach out to your sisters and brothers when you see a need.

The Parish Nurse is a volunteer within the congregation. I attended a 40 hour course in 2003 and was commissioned by the Church to serve in 2004. This happened as a response to a calling that I experienced of a way I could use my gifts after I retired from hospital nursing in 2005.

This year, along with visits to persons in the hospital and at home after their hospitalizations, I have accompanied individuals to medical appointments when they desired. My role also includes providing information and referrals to help persons making decisions regarding their own personal care or the care of a family member.

The Parish nurse oversees the taking of blood pressures on the first Sunday of the month. Twice per year I chair the Red Cross blood drive held in our Church. I sponsored Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation Class, taught by Char Troyer, which 5 persons attended. She has offered to do that twice a year if there is interest expressed by members of our congregation. Please let me know if you are interested in taking this class. You will note through the Wellness Committee report what their activities have been this year. As a member of that committee, the Parish Nurse assists with assignments as made through them.

I am only a call away if you have a question or need someone to be an extra "ear" or a support at a Doctor's appt. or an E.R. visit. Please let me know if you are facing a surgery or a crisis so I can assist in any way that would be helpful. Many are available to provide transportation to appts., but if you have difficulty finding someone for this, feel free to check with me.

Even though I feel a passion for the things I do as a Parish Nurse, I recognize that my years to serve in this way may be numbered because of my own age and health. The Wellness committee and I have been discussing ways that this could happen. Soon in the near future I will be asking others within the congregation to meet with us to share your ideas. The ministry may be continued through a person who feels called as I did, or through a team of volunteers who might work together, or through a combination of volunteers, one of whom would be a nurse who would be available for consultation. Meanwhile, I want to know in what ways I can help you in your journey to better health. There are many ways we can help each other if we work together.

"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you." III John 1:2

Marge Nester, Parish Nurse

Mennonite Women

Mennonite Women meets in the morning on the second Monday of each month, January to May, taking a break during the summer months, then again September to December. Attendance varies from 10-13 persons each meeting. Our time is used for projects, fellowship, devotions, and prayer. Most supplies are donated, and finished items go to Mennonite Central Committee, to be used where most needed.

In 2016 our women's group:

- Cut blocks and knotted comforters for MCC, with 19 completed.
- Knit child-size sweaters
- Cut, sewed, and filled 90 school kits
- Peeled, cooked and prepared apples to be used for pies for the Relief Sale: 55 freezer bags filled
- Invited other contributions for the Relief Sale

We receive an offering at each meeting, and have paid:

- Shipping for school kits to MCC
- Mennonite Women USA
- Donation for Meadows Home Fall Fest
- Membership dues to Meadows Home Auxiliary/Volunteers
- MW USA for Timbrel subscriptions

Members of our group are active at the Meadows Home in Chenoa, and often carpool to activities there. The Spring Luncheon, Family Picnic, Bake Sale(s), Fall Fest, and Holiday Tea are favorites. We also host the Resident Birthday Party in September, providing entertainment and snacks.

In addition, some members attend the Fall Women's Retreat at Camp Friedenswald in Michigan, and Sister Care meetings whenever they happen. Some of the women also attend the Spring retreat at Camp Menno Haven.

In December, we had a small Christmas party with refreshments, and hot spiced cider.

Officers for 2016 include Dorothy Loepp, President. Hazel Yoder Vice President. Diane Wiman, Secretary/Treasurer. Deanna Moshier, Project Coordinator.

Diane Wiman/ Secretary

Planned Giving Committee

This Committee, established in 2010, is composed of the Church Chair, Lead Pastor, Chairperson of Financial Stewardship, and two persons appointed by the Board. At the end of 2010 the Committee distributed to all members of the congregation a brochure entitled “Planned Giving Fund” which outlines the structure and plans for handling endowments as well as other planned gifts to the Mennonite Church of Normal.

Included in the brochure was a statement of purpose for a Planned Giving Fund at the Mennonite Church of Normal. Such a fund is

- To provide for the receipt of gifts both for purposes of endowment and other planned gifts by having a plan that is coordinated with our total stewardship ministry.
- To promote faithful Christian stewardship of all resources, present as well as accumulated, by encouraging personal wills and estate plans that reflect concern for and participation in God’s work through our congregational ministries.
- To encourage gifts of accumulated assets and to enhance the mission of our congregation beyond that which is supported through regular giving.

Although the Committee met only once during 2016, they stand ready to speak with individuals or small groups about endowments, bequests and other planned giving. Contributions and plans for contributions are welcome at any time. The Committee welcomes questions, inquiries and conversations about the idea of planned giving, why one might or might not consider such and who could assist one in working out the details of such gifts.

In response to a Culture of Generosity workshop that occurred at MCN some time ago, we will work with the Church Board on some activities in 2017.

Lotus Hershberger, Chair

Junior High Youth Fellowship

In 2016, the junior high youth continued their routine of regular Sunday night meetings. In the winter, we followed the True Story trek through the Bible, and spent time exploring the Bible passages through art, drama and discussion. In the spring, we hosted a Bible Trivia night for the church, giving a chance for our junior highers to show off their art work and a chance for the adults in our congregation to show off their Bible knowledge. Over the summer the youth helped out at the Midwest Food Bank and attended the Know Jesus convention in Goshen. This fall we've spent time with passages from the book of John. We've also had a few off campus adventures. Our boy-only group fished at the Ulrich pond (thanks to Pastor Tim's expertise and equipment!) and spent a Saturday helping to renovate the bunk house at Menno Haven. We are very grateful for Lotus and Judy Hershberger who came alongside us this year to help shepherd the youth by joining our meetings every Sunday evening. They've slung finger rockets, reffed crazy games, and shared their life experiences with our students. We couldn't have done the year without them!

Chris and Cory Culbertson, JMYF Leaders

Homebuilders

Homebuilders is an informal group which meets at the MRC Community Room on the fourth Sunday evening of the month at 7:00 p.m. (September through March, except December).

Persons attending are invited to suggest programs. We have a wide variety of programs. The attendance is usually between 20 and 30 people.

We are planning to step down from being in charge of Homebuilders and looking for some new people to take over. It really is not a big job. Anyone can help suggest speakers. Please call us at 662-6426 if you are interested.

Programs in 2016 were:

- "Peacemaking in Israel/Palestine" by Phil Dick
- "Growing Fish, Herbs and Vegetables using Aquaponics" by Mr. Harston.
- "Conquering Land without War: How the Netherlands Peacefully Gained New Territory" by Gerlof Homan
- "Serving with MCC in Bangladesh" by Meghan Reha
- "An Encounter with Korea's Culture and History" by Darrel and Lynette Miller

Everyone is invited to attend the programs.

Gerlof and Roelie Homan, Coordinators

Cemetery Trustees

The Mennonite Church (Ropp) Cemetery Trustees met several times throughout the year to make decisions on several issues. A work day was held in May for a number of maintenance and trimming projects. The ice storm at the end of 2015 brought down the large tree in the Northeast corner which added to cleanup. Leroy Loepp continued mowing duties with occasional assistance from Mannie Oyer.

The major expenditure for the year involved the restoration of four original stones dating back to 1868. These were family of the Mennonite Ropps who established the area in 1857. The Board agreed to pay half of the restoration and the Ropps paid the other half. This was the year to update "Registration" of the Cemetery with the State of Illinois. The Board also decided to open another row of plots bordering the west side of the plotted area.

One burial occurred for Addison Stenger. Presently there are seventy-eight plots reserved. A revised copy of the Policies and Procedures was distributed to all plot owners. Copies are also available to anyone by checking in the Church Office. Present Trustees whose terms expire at the end of 2018 are John Reimer, Steve Stenger and Ron Ropp. The terms of Phil Dick, Mary Jantze and Mannie Oyer expire at the end of 2021. And additional thanks to Jon Ropp for assistance on a number of projects.

Ron Ropp, Chairperson

Student Mutual Aid Program (SMAP)

The most visible part of the SMAP program continues to be the fund-raiser held each summer. This year we gathered June 12, 2016 at Eric and Chellie Miller's. We enjoyed an evening of delicious food, fellowship, singing, reports from current students and of course pledging. We needed to raise ~ 51,000 dollars this year after subtracting our reserve of ~ 6,000 dollars. We pledged ~ 43,000 dollars with the expectation that there were more pledges out there that were not turned in before the fundraiser. We continue to support all college students with care packages throughout the year and if you have not had a chance to see the awesome college student bulletin board in the library take a look--thanks Annette Harnish. This year we sent five students to Mennonite colleges; Joelle Friesen (Senior) and Meredith Satchwell (Sophomore) returned to Goshen College adding Ryan Miller (Freshman) to their fold as well. Bluffton University is being represented by Caitlin Haab (Sophomore) and Jacob Love (Senior). Costs continue to increase modestly but could be significant in years to come when more youth are eligible to attend. I would like to thank the existing committee members: Mary Dyck, Annette Harnish, Katie Driscoll, Chellie Miller, Mark Roeschley and Darvis King. I want to continue to offer my thanks to everyone that helps this program to thrive as we continue to plan for this program to be around for a long time!

Darvis King, Chair

Mennonite Church of Normal Balance Sheet Consolidated-For the Year Ending December 2016

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|------------|
| BANK ACCOUNTS | 1050 | |
| CHECKING ACCOUNTS | 1100 | |
| General Ckg-Heartland Ban | 1120 | 25,452.24 |
| SAVINGS ACCOUNTS | 1200 | |
| Money Mkt-1st St.Bk-0.30% | 1210 | 138,153.40 |
| Subtotal Bank Accounts | 1050 | 163,605.64 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | 163,605.64 |
| | | |
| RESERVE FUNDS | 2099 | |
| SPECIFIC PURPOSE FUNDS | 2100 | |
| SMAP Fund | 2103 | 32,828.71 |
| Cemetery Fund | 2104 | 11,649.18 |
| Mennonite Women | 2105 | 480.56 |
| Ministerial Prep Fund | 2106 | 80.01 |
| MDS Trips Fund | 2107 | 10.00 |
| CPT Trips Fund | 2108 | 4,553.17 |
| Organ/Piano Maint. Fund | 2129 | 8,939.50 |
| Subtotal Specific Purpose Funds | 2100 | 58,541.13 |
| OTHER DESIGNATED FUNDS | 2300 | |
| Cap Imprv & Repair Escrow | 2302 | 17,757.47 |
| Sunday School Offering | 2305 | 171.73 |
| Missional Giving Fund | 2306 | 4,334.74 |
| MYF Fundraising Reserve | 2308 | 5,996.48 |
| MYF Events | 2308-1 | 2,415.00 |
| JMYF Fundraising Reserve | 2309 | 104.43 |
| Campus Enhancement Escrow | 2311 | 13,213.08 |
| Mutual Aid-Miscellaneous | 2320 | 5,008.78 |
| Reserve Fund | 2330 | 47,404.58 |
| Accr'd N-Local 1st Fruits | 2350 | 2,130.00 |
| Above Budget--MCC | 2351 | 18.12 |
| Accr'd Ministry Support | 2352 | 250.00 |
| Planned Giving Funds | 2356 | 0.01 |
| Misc. Designated Funds | 2361 | -41.42 |
| Subtotal Other Designated Funds | 2300 | 98,763.00 |
| MEMORIAL FUNDS | 2400 | 6,301.51 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | | 163,605.64 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | | 163,605.64 |

Mennonite Church of Normal Funds Received and Disbursed in Addition to Budget

| | Balance 01/01/2016 | Funds Received (Credit) | Funds Disbursed (Debit) | Balance 12/31/2016 |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| SPECIFIC PURPOSE FUNDS | | | | |
| Student Mutual Aid Program (SMAP) | 31,763.57 | 76,460.31 | 75,395.17 | 32,828.71 |
| Cemetery Fund | 12,537.07 | 12,14.73 | 2,102.62 | 11,649.18 |
| Mennonite Women | 544.94 | 11,43.00 | 1,207.38 | 480.56 |
| Ministerial Prep Fund | 80.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 80.00 |
| CPT Trips Fund | 4,553.17 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4,553.17 |
| MDS Trips Fund | 10.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10.00 |
| Organ / Piano Maintenance | 9,911.75 | 5,032.81 | 6,005.06 | 8,939.50 |
| Subtotal - Specific Purpose Funds | | | | 58,541.13 |
| OTHER DESIGNATED FUNDS | | | | |
| Capital Improvements & Repair Escrow | 57,388.68 | 39,808.38 | 79,439.59 | 17,757.47 |
| Sunday School Offering | 794.93 | 476.80 | 1,100.00 | 171.73 |
| Missional Giving Fund | 4,321.87 | 15.90 | 3.03 | 4,334.74 |
| MYF Fundraising Reserve | 581.31 | 10,149.58 | 4,734.41 | 5,996.48 |
| MYF Events | 0.00 | 2,415.00 | 0.00 | 2,415.00 |
| JMYF Fundraising Reserve | 252.00 | 114.47 | 262.04 | 104.43 |
| Campus Enhancement Escrow | 10,198.35 | 3,050.44 | 35.71 | 13,213.08 |
| Mutual Aid - Miscellaneous | 5,707.03 | 8,156.61 | 8,854.86 | 5,008.78 |
| Reserve Fund | 38,923.86 | 8,502.79 | 22.07 | 47,404.58 |
| Planned Giving Funds | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 |
| Accr'd N-Local 1 st Fruits | 2,130.00 | 113,751.36 | 113,751.36 | 2,130.00 |
| Above Budget MCC | 0.00 | 18.12 | 0.00 | 18.12 |
| Accr'd Ministry Support | 0.00 | 6000.00 | 5750.00 | 250.00 |
| Miscellaneous Designated Funds: | | | | |
| Periodicals | (124.36) | 1,600.30 | 1773.88 | (297.95) |
| Relief Sale Quilts | 50.00 | 5,750.00 | 5,783.32 | 16.68 |
| Alternative Gifts Fair | (58.30) | 21,747.30 | 21,689.00 | 0.00 |
| Funeral and other Meals | 6.81 | 225.98 | 225.98 | 6.81 |
| Quilt Blocks for MCC | 0.00 | 551.00 | 591.00 | (40.00) |
| HAAQG and Wild Ones A/V | 90.00 | 300.00 | 305.00 | 85.00 |
| Menno Haven Sunday | 192.57 | 541.50 | 865.83 | (131.76) |
| Miscellaneous | (112.00) | 1,249.00 | 1,249.00 | (112.00) |
| VORP | 1113.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1113.00 |
| Camp Friedenswald Weekend | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,440.00 | (1,440.00) |
| Peace and Justice Project | 500.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 |
| True Story Books | (22.81) | 200.00 | 75.00 | 102.19 |
| Sister Care | 56.60 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 56.60 |
| Subtotal - Misc Designated Funds | | | | (41.42) |
| Subtotal- Other Designated Funds | | | | 98,763.00 |
| MEMORIAL FUNDS | | | | |
| Anna Mae Reeser | 2,067.58 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,067.58 |
| Doug Poag | 0.00 | 300.00 | 0.00 | 300.00 |
| Alta Litwiller | 1,500.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,500.00 |
| Royale Diveley | 1,748.49 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,748.49 |
| Rachel Zehr | 0.00 | 705.00 | 19.56 | 685.44 |
| Subtotal - Memorial Funds | | | | 6301.51 |
| Unrestricted Net Assets | | | | |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS | | | | 16,3605.64 |

**Mennonite Church of Normal
Consolidated Income and Expense Statement
January 1, 2016-December 31, 2016**

| | 2016 Year to Date | Budget % | 2016 Budget | 2017 Proposed Budget |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------|----------------|-------------------------|
| INCOME | | | 528,864 | 537,121 |
| Unified Spending Plan | 495,553 | | | |
| Tapes/CD's Sold | 62 | | | |
| Use of Church Building | 5,295 | | | |
| Janitor Svc - Head Start | 3,382 | | | |
| Janitor FICA - Head Start | 228 | | | |
| Janitor Supps -Head Start | 842 | | | |
| Waste Pick-up -Head Start | 450 | | | |
| Interest Income | 15 | | | |
| Miscellaneous Income | 20 | | | |
| TOTAL INCOME | 505,847 | | | |
| EXPENSES | | | | |
| BUDGETED EXPENSES | | | | |
| MUSIC AND WORSHIP | | | | |
| Honorariums | 100 | 25% | 400 | 400 |
| Worship Materials | 677 | 90% | 750 | 500 |
| Music License & Sbscrptns | 4 | 2% | 200 | 200 |
| Projects | 0 | 0% | 200 | 200 |
| Junior Choir | 0 | 0% | 150 | 150 |
| Choir Music/Accompanist | 981 | 130% | 750 | 800 |
| Organ/Piano Tunings | 1,215 | 97% | 1,245 | 1,245 |
| Subtotal Music And Worship | 2,977 | 80% | 3,695 | 3,495 |
| EDUCATION | | | | |
| Background Screening | 17 | 0% | 0 | 100 |
| S. S. Materials | 1,912 | 84% | 2,250 | 2,250 |
| S. S. Supplies | 121 | 48% | 250 | 250 |
| Nursery Staff Person | 3,254 | 92% | 3,500 | 3,500 |
| Nursery Supplies | 0 | 0% | 50 | 50 |
| Family Fun Night | 281 | 70% | 400 | 400 |
| Teacher Training | 0 | 0% | 50 | 50 |
| Teacher Appreciation | 120 | 80% | 150 | 150 |
| Subtotal Education | 5,705 | 85% | 6,650 | 6,750 |

| | 2016 Year to Date | Budget % | 2016 Budget | 2017 Proposed Budget |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------|-------------|----------------------|
| YOUTH MINISTRY | | | | |
| MYF - Activities | 7,500 | 100% | 7,500 | 8,900 |
| MYF - Transportation | 3,350 | 100% | 3,350 | 5,600 |
| Christian Education | 579 | 131% | 440 | 300 |
| Sponsor Training | 0 | 0% | 100 | 100 |
| JMYF - Activities | 2,162 | 60% | 3,600 | 3,600 |
| JMYF - Transportation | 870 | 100% | 870 | 1,200 |
| Discipleship Materials | 177 | 70% | 250 | 250 |
| Youth Ministry Comm. -Misc | 11 | 3% | 350 | 350 |
| Youth Pastor Misc | 215 | 61% | 350 | 350 |
| Subtotal Youth Ministry | 14,865 | 88% | 16,810 | 20,650 |
| CHURCH BUILDING | | | | |
| Janitor Service | 16,519 | 122% | 13,500 | 15,000 |
| Janitor FICA | 1,229 | 119% | 1,025 | 1,148 |
| Janitor Supplies | 2,002 | 125% | 1,600 | 1,600 |
| Maintenance & Minor Repairs | 3,722 | 70% | 5,250 | 5,250 |
| Equipment | 3,855 | 77% | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Utilities | 0 | 0% | 0 | |
| Electricity | 6,817 | 104% | 6,500 | 6,500 |
| Natural Gas | 3,603 | 72% | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Water & Sewer | 2,188 | 121% | 1,800 | 1,800 |
| Waste Pick-up | 2,700 | 150% | 1,800 | 1,800 |
| Telecommunications | 3,489 | 116% | 3,000 | 3,600 |
| Insurance | 9,137 | 83% | 11,000 | 11,500 |
| Snow Removal | 640 | 49% | 1,300 | 1,300 |
| Cap Imprv & Repair | 17,220 | 100% | 17,220 | 18,000 |
| Mowing & Ground Care | 2,971 | 99% | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| FSC Miscellaneous | 0 | 0% | 125 | 125 |
| Campus Enhancements | 3,000 | 100% | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Subtotal Church Building | 79,094 | 98% | 80,120 | 83,623 |
| FELLOWSHIP | | | | |
| Fellowship Supplies | 1,078 | 215% | 500 | 900 |
| Church Dinners | 399 | 34% | 1,150 | 900 |
| Miscellaneous | 51 | 11% | 450 | 300 |
| Subtotal Fellowship | 1,528 | 73% | 2,100 | 2,100 |

| | 2016 Year to Date | Budget % | 2016 Budget | 2017 Proposed Budget |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------|-------------|----------------------|
| STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION | | | | |
| Salaries | 189,209 | 99% | 191,059 | 192,883 |
| FICA | 2,492 | 101% | 2,466 | 2,482 |
| Pension | 15,882 | 91% | 17,494 | 17,665 |
| Life,AD&D,& LTD Insurance | 1,349 | 109% | 1,237 | 1,347 |
| Medical Insurance | 20,643 | 95% | 21,843 | 47,625 |
| Car Allowance (Mileage) | | | | |
| Senior Pastor mileage | 1,483 | 87% | 1,700 | 1,700 |
| Worship&LayMin Mileage | 156 | 14% | 1,100 | 1,100 |
| Youth&Fam Mileage | 553 | 78% | 700 | 700 |
| Continuing Ed/Prof. Exp | 325 | 0% | 0 | |
| Senior Pastor Cont Ed | 1,292 | 71% | 1,800 | 1,800 |
| Wor&LayMin Cont Ed | 232 | 19% | 1,200 | 1,200 |
| Youth&Fam Cont Ed | 1,471 | 105% | 1,400 | 1,400 |
| Admin. Assist. Cont Ed | 0 | 0% | 0 | 250 |
| Conference Expense | 516 | 29% | 1,750 | 2,200 |
| Health Savings Account | 8,211 | 100% | 8,211 | 8,211 |
| Office Expenses | 4,812 | 160% | 3,000 | 3,500 |
| Direct Giving Fees | 1,585 | 132% | 1,200 | 1,700 |
| Sabbatical | 1,901 | 59% | 3,200 | 0 |
| Subtotal Staff And Administration | 252,113 | 97% | 259,361 | 285,763 |
| CONGREGATIONAL NURTURE | | | | |
| Adult CE Materials | -61 | -6% | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Library | 373 | 93% | 400 | 300 |
| Movie License | 0 | 0% | 225 | 0 |
| Camperships | 1,240 | 127% | 975 | 1,250 |
| Pastoral Council | 254 | 51% | 500 | 500 |
| Wellness | 5 | 1% | 400 | 400 |
| Laity Training | 1,257 | 91% | 1,375 | 1,375 |
| Cluster Group Support | 200 | 14% | 1,400 | 1,400 |
| Subtotal Congregational Nurture | 3,267 | 52% | 6,275 | 6,225 |
| FIRST FRUITS - LOCAL | | | | |
| Outreach | 6,108 | 68% | 9,000 | 9,000 |
| Indigent Assistance | 468 | 117% | 400 | 400 |
| Peace and Justice | 250 | 8% | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Subtotal First Fruits - Local | 6,827 | 55% | 12,400 | 12,400 |

| | 2016 Year to Date | Budget % | 2016 Budget | 2017 Proposed Budget |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|----------|----------------|-------------------------|
| FIRST FRUITS: NON-LOCAL | | | | |
| Mennonite Mission Network | 45,133 | 100% | 45,133 | 45,810 |
| IL Mennonite Conference | 14,832 | 100% | 14,832 | 15,054 |
| Central District Conf | 14,832 | 100% | 14,832 | 15,054 |
| Menn Education Assoc MEA | 15,368 | 100% | 15,368 | 15,599 |
| Menn Central Comm MCC | 3,895 | 100% | 3,895 | 3,954 |
| Menno Haven Camp | 4,045 | 100% | 4,045 | 4,106 |
| Camp Friedenswald | 4,045 | 100% | 4,045 | 4,106 |
| Maple Lawn Homes | 1,358 | 75% | 1,811 | 919 |
| Meadows Mennonite Home | 1,811 | 100% | 1,811 | 1,838 |
| Christian Peacemaker Teams | 1,811 | 100% | 1,811 | 0 |
| MennoMedia | 1,811 | 100% | 1,811 | 1,838 |
| Menn Disaster Service MDS | 1,811 | 100% | 1,811 | 1,838 |
| Ministry Support | 6,100 | 102% | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| CorinthianPlan Mutual Aid | 24,249 | 100% | 24,249 | 0 |
| Subtotal First Fruits: Non- local | 141,101 | 100% | 141,453 | 116,115 |
| Subtotal Budgeted Expenses | 507,476 | 96% | 528,864 | 537,121 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 507,476 | 96% | 528,864 | |
| EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES | -1,629 | 1% | -528,864 | |

Financial Statements prepared by Lynn Reha, Administrative Assistant, and reviewed by members of the Financial Stewardship Committee, Adam Augspurger Linda Clemmons, and Rick Yoder.

Audit

Financial Stewardship Committee

Mennonite Church of Normal

Financial activity and records of the Mennonite Church of Normal for the Year Ended December 31, 2016 have been examined and bank statements were reconciled to balances on 12-31-16 Financial Statements. Any minor discrepancies were corrected prior to final reports being published.

The review of records and transactions was limited in scope but the review produced no concerns of improper record keeping. An additional review will be made in early February when further information becomes available.

Expenses over income amounting to (1,629.29) for 2016 was applied to Unrestricted Net Assets (Equity) resulting in a Net Equity of \$8,359.74. This amount was then transferred to the Reserve Fund according to direction from the F/S Committee. This resulted in an accumulated Reserve Fund balance of \$47,404.58 as of December 31, 2016.

Robert L. Kauffman, Auditor

January 5, 2017

Mennonite Residential Community (MRC)

Members of the 2016 MRC Corporation Board include: Roger Clemmons, (vice chairperson), Bob Kauffman (treasurer), Gerry Schrock (secretary), Terry Wiebenga (chairperson), Marilea White, John Gundy, Julie Musselman, Larry Reeser, and Larry Schrader. Five members of the board are appointed to five-year terms by the Mennonite Church of Normal (MCN). Four members are elected to four-year terms by the MRC Residents Association.

Major events for 2016 include:

The board completed the review and updates of the MRC Handbook. Thanks to John Gundy for his work coordinating this effort.

The board completed a formal MRC application that all applicants will need to complete. Thanks to Larry Schraeder and Larry Reeser for their work on this.

Landscaping around the garage was mostly completed including a new bench in front of the garage. Funds from C. J. Dyck memorials helped with the cost of the bench. Thanks to John Gundy, Lee Hertzler, Roger Clemmons, and John Reimer for the work they did on this project.

The board has started some initial discussions on solar energy for the MRC.

Gerry Schrock completed her second term on the board. The MRC Board is very thankful for her work as secretary and her years of service on the MRC Board.

Bob Kauffman completed his first term but has agreed to continue for a 2nd term.

Dorothy Loepp (Resident's Association) will be joining the Board in 2017.

Thanks to Manny Oyer, Tim Kauffman, Larry Reeser, and Paul Watkins for the maintenance of the MRC; Larry Reeser and Paul Watkins for management expertise; and Lotus Hershberger and Linda Clemmons for handling financial matters.

The MRC Board is thankful for an active, healthy, and caring group of residents to serve.

Applications to reside in the MRC are received on a regular basis. Highest priority is given to members of the Mennonite Church of Normal. Second in priority—retired pastors and missionaries; third—Mennonites from surrounding churches; and fourth—members of the community with similar values.

Ask MCN board members for additional information regarding the community.

Terry Wiebenga, Chairperson

Heartland Head Start

I would like to begin by saying “Thank You” for providing a beautiful place for our classroom. The children have the access to large areas to learn and play, both inside and outside. The beauty does not only apply to the physical building and spaces but to the people who have interactions with the children, as well as the classroom staff. We have had many children and families who have benefitted from the generosity of the Mennonite Church in the last 20 plus years. We are thankful to have our classroom here at Mennonite! The building, as well as the people who we see and interact with us and the children are truly a blessing each day.

This year the members of the church also helped our children and families, by helping with a Winter Clothing Drive. We had many parents that were able to find something not just for their Head Start age children, but younger and older children, and themselves too. It is not always easy for the families, that Head Start serves, to get a warm coat for the adults, so the Winter Clothing Drive was very beneficial for them.

Heartland Head Start enhances the lives of children and families by providing a comprehensive child and family development program for 3-5-year-old children and their families who meet the federal guidelines in McLean and Livingston counties in Central Illinois.

Our preschool program is designed to improve each child’s quality of life, learning and health, while providing services that empower the entire family along with their communities. Heartland Head Start utilizes staff, parents and community resources to provide services in the areas of education, mental and physical health, disabilities, nutrition and social behaviors for our children and their families. We now have several options for families to choose from for their child’s attendance at Heartland Head Start, full-day, school day or part-day.

Heartland Head Start also offers Early Head Start services, which serves infants and toddlers, as well as pregnant moms. We currently have 3 EHS classrooms, these classrooms are full day classrooms. We have also implemented a Home Based Program, the Parent Child Educators work with families and children in their homes a couple of times a week. These families and children receive the same services as the children who are in a classroom.

The classroom at Mennonite Church of Normal serves 34 children, ages three, four and five years, and their families. Our teaching team this year: Ana Chapus, classroom/kitchen assistant, Jennifer Whitman, teacher assistant and Aimee Wright, lead teacher. Jennifer and Aimee have worked together for several years and this is our fourth year at this site. Ana is new to Heartland Head Start, but has really adjusted to the classroom and children well. We are so happy to have her with us. Emily Evanson is the Family Resource Advocate for our classroom.

Finally, I would like to extend an invitation to each one of you to join us. If you have a special talent to share, or would simply enjoy reading to a small group of children, you are welcome to do so. Thank you, readers and volunteers, for all you do for us! Our classroom is a better place because of you. Our children's literacy, language, and social skills have improved because of your efforts. Together, we can make a difference in a child's life.

Aimee Wright, Lead Teacher

