

Annual Reports - 2017

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

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 21, 2018

1:00 p.m.

1. Opening
2. Report on 2017 Spending Plan
3. 2018 Spending Plan
4. Pastoral Reports
5. Committee Annual Reports
6. Spending Plan Policy Task Force
7. 2018 Committee Volunteers/Recognition of Outgoing Committee Members
8. Closing

Staff

Lead Pastor - Tim Schrag

Associate Pastor - Jane Roeschley

Children's Christian Education Leader - Chris Culbertson

Youth Ministry Leader - Lauren Satchwell

Office Manager - Lynn Reha

Administrative Assistant - Lauren Satchwell

Custodian - Bryan Oyer

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Congregational Meeting Minutes

Congregational Meeting
January 22, 2017

Meal The meeting began with a report on funds collected from the Youth Fundraiser Meal held just prior to the meeting. Over \$1100 was collected.

Opening In his opening remarks, Wayne Hochstetler, Church Chair, reviewed and highlighted the work of the church, especially the work of the committees.

Pastor's Reports Pastor Tim Schrag briefly reviewed his 2016 Pastoral Report, which is included in the Annual Report. He also indicated that he has made adjustments in his schedule to accommodate additional duties which he has taken on during Pastor Matt Hickman's sabbatical. Pastor Jane Roeschley was unable to be present because she was in Washington DC for the Women's March. Pastor Matt Hickman has started his sabbatical. Pastor Jane and Pastor Matt's written 2016 Pastor's Reports are in the Annual Reports.

Annual Reports It was noted that the membership had stayed relatively steady. There were two edits needed for the Annual Report: addition of Nathan Miller as joining the church through baptism (p. 11) and the replacement of the 2015 Outreach Committee report with the 2016 Outreach Committee report (p. 19). The Annual Reports were accepted as edited. LATER NOTE Those edits have been made and a corrected copy posted on the MCN website.

2016 Spending Plan Update Treasurer Adam Augspurger reviewed the end of the year report on 2016 Spending Plan. He indicated that the deficit exceeded \$30,000 at the end of November, but that the year ended with a deficit of \$1629. He thanked all who had contributed throughout the year.

2017 Proposed Spending Plan The 2017 Spending Plan was presented by Adam Augspurger, Treasurer, through PowerPoint slides. The first and last slide gave a summary of the proposed plan for each of the sections, and the slides in between detailed the proposed budget for each section. Adam pointed out the movement of (approximately) \$25,000 from non-local First Fruits to Staff and Administration because of changes in the way The Corinthian Plan (Health insurance) is labeling portions of the costs.

The elimination of regular contributions to Christian Peacemaker Teams through non-local First Fruits Section of the budget was questioned. Phil Dick proposed an amendment to the budget, and numerous persons voiced their opinions on this subject. Barry Weaver reminded the group that the purpose of presenting the Spending Plan in November is to address questions then, and not in January, where the vote is taken. Lotus Hershberger motioned to table the amendment. The congregation voted to table the amendment. It was also noted that the Spending Plan can be amended as we proceed during the year. Lotus Hershberger motioned to pass the 2017 Spending Plan as proposed, seconded by Rick Yoder. That motion passed by voice vote with 3 persons voting opposed.

The Chair suggested that a conversation about CPT donations go forward. This conversation will be initiated by the Financial Stewardship Committee, since they are charged with deciding what comes or does not come to the congregation in terms of an amendment to the 2017 Spending Plan. The congregation affirmed having the conversation between Outreach Committee and Financial Stewardship Committee about CPT donations go forward.

Head Start Playground Eric Miller reported on the status of the Head Start Playground, indicating the roles and financial commitments of MCN and Head Start. MCN will take responsibility for preparing the ground (leveling) and the fence. Head Start will take responsibility for the purchase and installation of the playground. It was noted that the playground will be moved to the northwest corner of the building, just north of the Head Start entrance.

Vision and Mission Statements The revised Vision and Mission statements were reviewed by Wayne Hochstetler, noting that suggestions are still coming in. Wayne pointed out that these Statements are living documents. The revised Vision and Mission Statements were affirmed by the congregation.

Outgoing leaders Wayne Hochstetler thanked the outgoing leaders for their commitment and dedication to Mennonite Church of Normal: Cory Culbertson, Barbara Gillespie, Wayne Hochstetler, and Shelly King (Leadership Selection); Kristen Sand (MDS); Loren Mosher (Everence); Rick Reha, Gerlof Homan and Ardys Serpette (Outreach); Doug Ulrich (Financial Stewardship) and Hazel Yoder (Pastoral Council).

Hearing from the Congregation Attendees divided into smaller groups to address the following questions: 1) Is there anything you want to tell the Church Board? 2) What questions do you have for the Church Board? 3) What would you like to have discussed as a congregation in the next 1-3 years? 4) What would you like this congregation to do in the next 1-3 years? Each group had a Board member in attendance; the Board members took notes on the discussion.

Dismissal Wayne Hochstetler thanked the attendees for their interest and dismissed them.

Lynn Reha, Recording Secretary

Mennonite Church of Normal
Congregational Meeting
November 19, 2017

Attendance

There were 71 people in attendance.

Opening

Lynn Reha led the opening with a meditation on I John 4.

Children & Youth Ministry Implementation Plan

Janet Wilson, Vice Chair, Church Board, presented the Children & Youth Implementation Plan as illustrated by charts displayed on the screen. Chris Culbertson has been appointed by the Church Board as Children's Ministry Leader and Lauren Satchwell has been appointed as Youth Ministry Leader. These appointments are to start immediately and go through July 2019, with the possibility of being extended.

2018 Leadership

The slate of volunteers for 2018 Leadership was presented by Lauren Satchwell, Chair, Leadership Selection Committee. New committee members for 2018 are Spring Neely on the Christian Education Committee and Lotus Hershberger, Chair, Financial Stewardship Committee. Two members are needed on the Youth Ministry Committee and one member is needed on the Financial Stewardship Committee.

2018 Spending Plan

Linda Clemmons, Chair of Financial Stewardship Committee, presented the proposed 2018 Spending Plan, as illustrated by sections of the Spending Plan displayed on the screen. She made the following comments/explanations about the Spending Plan:

- The 2018 Spending Plan is a reduction from 2017 by \$47,465 or 9%.
- Committees were asked to be careful with their spending, but the Financial Stewardship Committee accepted what the committees requested.
- There is a new line for Children's Ministry for new activities (\$2000).
- The line which had been Youth Pastor Miscellaneous was changed to Youth Ministry Leader Miscellaneous.
- The electric sign has had high maintenance costs in the past 2 years.
- Staff and Administrative costs are reduced because of personnel changes.
- In past years non-local First Fruits have been increased by a percentage corresponding to the percentage that the Spending Plan was increased. This year the Spending Plan was reduced, but the First Fruits giving remained the same, amounting to an increase.
- Christian Peacemaker Teams has been reinstated in the First Fruits section.
- Ministry Support has been reduced by \$2000.

Linda asked that recommendations for changes in the Spending Plan be submitted in writing to the Financial Stewardship Committee. These will come forward in the January Congregational meeting, which is when it will be voted on.

Questions noted:

- Why do we have increased FICA costs when we have reduced salary costs? (Response: Pastors are self-employed and those self-employment costs are included in the Salary line. We have increased number of employees for whom we pay FICA.)
- One individual indicated discomfort with putting aside less for Capital Improvement. He commented: we have replaced many things but there are things that are coming up: more carpet, and resurfacing of parking lot, for example. We need to be building that account back up.
- What are the trends in contributions going down? (Response: It is difficult to know. Some givers have passed on, and some have moved away. Adam Augspurger and Lynn Reha did research but there are no trends or reasons that are clear.)
- Are there going to be any continuing education funds for Lauren Satchwell (new Youth Ministry Leader) and Chris Culbertson (new Children's Ministry Leader) as they take over new responsibilities? (Responses: The timing of the creating of the Spending Plan and the new positions was close and we did not fully consider all the aspects. Pastor Tim Schrag indicated that the Lead Pastor continuing education funding could be shared because it is under spent.)
- **In 2016 and in 2017 expenses approved by Outreach committee were not funded when other committees were fully funded. Please create a policy that outlines what to do with expenditures if there is a deficit.**
- **Why are First Fruits not being treated as that but are being withheld when other bills are being paid?**

There were many additional people who had comments and suggestions on the last 2 questions. To retain accuracy and privacy, those are recorded and are archived on a CD and on the church office computer. The attention to these questions took the remainder of the meeting, spending approximately one half hour on comments on how we should enact the Spending Plan where there is a deficit.

Janet Wilson summarized the main concerns of this section of the meeting with these points:

1. There were recommendations for changes in the 2018 proposed Spending Plan. (Janet reminded the group that any requests for changes to the Spending Plan should be submitted in writing to the Financial Stewardship Committee. During the January meeting the Spending Plan will be voted on, and additional changes will not be accepted at that time.)
2. It was recommended that a Task Force be formed to shape a policy for what cost-cutting actions to take when there is a deficit.

Closing

Pastor Tim Schrag closed with the meeting with prayer.

Lynn Reha, Recording Secretary

Lead Pastor Tim Schrag

1. An unprecedented focus of my ministry in the past year involved matters related to staff.
 - I assumed some of the duties normally covered by Pastor Matt Hickman, during his spring sabbatical. Examples include leading MYF input sessions each Sunday evening, meeting with Youth Ministry Committee, keeping in close touch with sponsors, etc. Matt's heart-related illness in early June necessitated continuing to give attention to matters related to youth.
 - Significant engagement at different levels, with the issues that eventually resulted in the concluding of Pastor Matt's pastoral tenure at MCN. I have since spent time in helping congregational members process this event.
 - After Matt's departure, I gave temporary oversight to ministries previously assigned to Matt.
 - I took the lead, in close consultation with the Church Board, in the initiatives which resulted in MCN engaging Lauren Satchwell and Chris Culbertson as leaders of Youth Ministry and Children's Ministry, respectively. Early indicators are that they will both be very well suited to these ministries.
 - There was an adjustment to the reassignment of Lynn Reha to the position of Office Manager, with Lauren Satchwell engaged as the Administrative Assistant. This transition has gone well.

The above took varying amounts of time and emotional energy. Suffice it to say that I will remember these aspects of 2017 as quite stressful. I came to the year's end more tired than I remember being in previous Decembers. I very much appreciate that the Board has granted me a 2-month sabbatical to be taken in July and August of the coming year.

I am grateful for the resiliency of the congregation, and believe we are well-positioned for ministry moving forward.

2. I gave some emphasis in 2017 to a series of sermons, spaced throughout the year, around the theme of "A Culture of Generosity."

3. My first year of involvement on the Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale Board has been a time for learning, and finding my 'niche' in that ministry. I have generally found it to be satisfying.

4. I attended the MCUSA national gathering in Orlando, Florida. It was informative, at times inspiring, and in other ways sobering. Our national denomination is facing real challenges, and continues to find itself in a time of uncertainty and flux.

5. Our children surprised us with an invitation to join them in a pre-Christmas getaway to Cancun, Mexico. This was a belated celebration of our 40th wedding anniversary. The entire gathered family included our three children, their spouses, and the four grandchildren including the newest arrival, baby Simon (born in October).

Associate Pastor of Worship and Lay Ministries (Half-Time) by Pastor 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 Leadership Selection Committee. I meet with Pastoral Council and Church Board.
- As a continuation of the focus in 2016 on understanding white privilege and dismantling racism, Amy Reiman and David Harnish were outstanding in leading an **adult CE election on Michele Alexander's *The New Jim Crow***. 40+ persons took part over the course of 13 weeks. An excellent class webpage with recommended reading, podcasts, documentaries, and follow-up actions is linked to the MCN website. I also served as **co-leader for two Adult CE classes** throughout the year.
- **The Area Cluster ministries** continue with purpose and vigor. Some of the leadership has changed, but each Cluster 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.
- A **second round of Feedback Sessions** has occurred this year: Communion, Newcomers to the Congregation, Congregational Meals and Church Picnics, and the MYF Convention Experience. These sessions provide good insights to ministries in the congregation about what people are experiencing and how that relates to our vision of mission for God. There have been some very holy moments of sharing. Much thanks to the 8 persons serving as Facilitator-Recorders for those sessions.
- One of the great joys of my work is connecting people and their gifts to ministry opportunities. This year we've welcomed several **new persons serving as worship leaders**, including 2 youth.
- I planned and co-led with Sarah Tunall (Director of Northwest Neighborhood Community Center) a **Good Friday Prayer Walk**. About 15 persons prayed and walked from White Oak Park to Crosswinds Community Church. Our **World Communion Sunday** in October featured the planning and contributions of many of our Congolese friends which led to a rich morning of worship and music in 3 languages (English, French and Lingala).
- Coordinating behind-the-scenes for **volunteers to participate in MDS trips and/or the Habitat House** build are part of my portfolio.
- A new **Family Literacy Class** is underway at MCN on Wednesday afternoons with volunteers providing child care in our nursery for the younger sibling. We hope this is just the beginning and that this class can expand to another session each week.
- 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 reports and references, ordering supplies, going to meetings, making phone calls, doing email, and ministry planning, etc., etc.
- I am currently imagining that I'll be **retiring when I turn 65**, in about 2 years. Knowing this has prompted me to be in prayer about what it means to end well and to what I might give my attentions in this remaining time. It remains a great privilege to serve as one of your pastors, even as I begin to see an end on the horizon.

Membership Statistics

Membership as of January 1, 2017	298
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Members gained by Affirmation of Faith	2
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Shannon Neeley	October 15
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Spring Neeley	October 15
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Loss of Members by Transfer	(2)
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Ben Krahn	October 30
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Shirley Krahn	October 30
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Loss of Member by Request	(2)
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Eve Zook	April 10
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Guilford Zook	April 10
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Loss of Member by Death	(1)
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Gerlof Homan	November 17
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Membership as of December 31, 2017	295
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Births

Marjorie Weaver Kasongo	February 28
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Parents: Emmanuel Kasongo & Marlphonsia (Tanya) Kimbembe	
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Miriam Elisabeth Charles Dick	October 3
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Parents: Henry Dick & Sophie Charles	
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Vincent Von Belser	October 31
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Parents: Keith & Kayla Belser	
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Ian George Petri	November 7
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Parents: Aaron & Emily Petri	
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Avery Menno Harnish	December 6
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Parents: David & Gabriella Harnish	
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Officers and Committee Members for 2018

* indicates committee chair for the year

Committee or Position	Continuing Members	Persons to start 2018 Term (may be renewing)
Church Chairperson	Wayne Hochstetler (2018) 1 st term	
Treasurer	Adam Augspurger (2018) 2 nd term	
Assistant Treasurer	Mary Alice Hertzler (2018) 1 st term	
Church Board	Janet Wilson (2018) 1 st term	Eric Miller (2019) 2 nd term Cindy Ropp (2020) 2 nd term Rick Satchwell (2020) 2 nd term Mary Ann Watkins (2019) 2 nd term
Christian Education Committee	Alena Culbertson (2018) 1 st term	Shelly King (2019) 2 nd term Spring Neely (2019) 1 st term *Beth Reeser (2019) 3 rd term
Fellowship Committee	Gerry Schrock (2018) 1 st term Marge Weaver (2018) 1 st term	Tim Kauffman (2019) 3 rd term
Financial Stewardship Committee	Carroll Miller (2018) 1 st term Nathan Miller (2018) 1 st term	Linda Clemmons (2019) 3 rd term *Lotus Hershberger (2019) 1 st term Andy Reeser (2019) 1 st term
Outreach Committee	Rochelle Augsburg (2018) 1 st term *Phil Dick (2018) 2 nd term Phyllis Versteegh (2018) 1 st term Dorothy Zehr (2018) 2 nd term	
Pastoral Council	Melika Hershberger (2020) 1 st term Lois Hochstetler (2019) 1 st term Keith Unzicker (2018) 1 st term	*Steve Stenger (2021) 2 nd term
Worship Committee	Lynette Miller (2018) 1 st term Julie Musselman (2018) 1 st term *Cindy Ropp (2018) 3 rd term Lydia Hedberg (2018) 1 st term	Louise Reeser (2019) 3 rd term Randy Zehr (2019) 3 rd term
Youth Ministry Committee	Darvis King (2018) 2 nd term	* Chellie Miller (2019) 2 nd term Connie Satchwell (2019) 1 st term Barry Weaver (2019) 1 st term

The Leadership Selection Committee members in 2017 were Caleb Augspurger, Phil Hoffman, and Dorothy Loepp, Lauren Satchwell (Chair), and Randy Zehr. Pastor Jane Roeschley is the staff liaison for this committee.

Church Board

The Church Board for 2017 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 has worked well and hard together. Over the course of the year all Board members opened the meetings with worship.

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, based on your feedback, which speaks to what we wish the congregation to be in the future. We also wrote a mission statement which expresses how we work into that vision as a congregation. These were adopted early in the year, after congregational feedback and approval. These statements may change over time, but for now they provide a guiding light and direction. Each committee and group is asked to work from this perspective.

The Board chose to use a retreat in March to work on our own direction in regards to the vision and mission statements. What should our own priorities be as we listen to God and make decisions on behalf of the congregation? There was much prayer as we listened to God and each other. This time together was valuable for the work of the year.

The plan to move the children's playground was put on hold when requested by Head Start to pause this planning. They were not yet prepared to move forward. That may still come as future agenda.

The Board continues to seek better ways to hear from the various groups and committees regarding their work on behalf of the congregation. Twice a year we will hold a "church leadership summit" where each group / committee reports to the rest of the groups present. We are hopeful that this process will enable good communication. The first of these was held in the fall of 2017.

Personnel items became a large focus during this past year. Pastor Jane completed her term; we conducted an evaluation of her work; and the Board and congregation called her for another 5-year term.

Pastor Matt completed his sabbatical. The Board engaged with him in discussions of his future work in the congregation, and his term was terminated. He is now working with Baby Fold in Bloomington. Youth Ministry and Children and Family Life ministries will be led by two persons from our congregation: Lauren Satchwell and Chris Culbertson will lead those ministries, respectively, into the future.

Lynn Reha retired from her position as Administrative Assistant; she is now the Part-time Office Manager. Lauren Satchwell is part-time Administrative Assistant.

Pastor Tim will take a two-month sabbatical in July and August, 2018. More details of this plan will be announced as we move forward.

In order to manage personnel issues within the congregation, a Personnel Policy Task Force was created. The Board discovered that there were differing expectations regarding personnel items, and that we need some unified policies. This will be on-going work in 2018.

As the Board discussed ways to stay in touch with the congregation, the Board initiated Congregational Listening Sessions to work on various topics. Three such sessions were initiated, and the feedback from them has been very valuable. Session 1 was very general: “What do you want to tell the Church Board?” Session 2 was focused around the Vision and Mission of the congregation. Session 3 was focused on finances.

From these sessions it became very clear that the congregation desired to study our understandings of sexuality issues. That agenda will indeed be initiated in 2018. A Ministry Team will be developed to move these discussions forward.

The Board is very pleased to know that certain individuals continue to pray for us, individually and as a group. We know that you are interested in the work of the Board and the congregation, and we continue to solicit your feedback and support. 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 continue to express that relationship.

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

Wayne Hochstetler, Church Chair

Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council for 2017 was comprised of Keith Unzicker, Lois Hochstetler, Melika Hershberger, and Steve Stenger as chair. The pastoral staff members are Tim Schrag, Jane Roeschley and for most of the year, Matt Hickman.

Our monthly meetings are spent offering support and council to the pastoral staff, arraigning for adult Sunday school classes, and working through mutual aid situations. We routinely make contact with congregational members and pray monthly on their behalf. Our planning, preparation and serving of communion several times a year and other congregational rituals is meaningful work for all involved.

Marge Nester our Parish Nurse meets with us as needed and work has begun on building a job description for that position as her role lessens some and new ways are explored to carry on the tremendous work she has done for so many years.

Our work is ongoing and ever changing as we seek to be of service to our pastoral staff and the congregation.

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, Louise Reeser, Lydia Hedberg, Julie Musselman, and Lynette Miller.

The focus of our work this year included:

- supporting the musical gifts of our congregation, especially youth musicians, accompanists, and soloists as they regularly share in our Sunday morning services. We deeply appreciate the extra time, effort, and skill involved to bring a Lenten and Advent orchestra to our worship.
- supporting the Junior, Youth, and Adult Choirs through the purchase of choral music.
- facilitating special worship events including the beautiful service led by our Congolese sisters and brothers.
- seasonal worship series: For Lent/Easter and Advent/Christmas, we plan and create worship services around a theme for the entire series. Special choral music was presented by all three choirs. Preparing for these two celebratory seasons takes primary focus for the committee for much of the year. This included facilitation of both the Maundy Thursday and the Longest Night services.
- creating and participating in a Worship Committee Retreat hosted by Jane at her home. We spent time focusing on the following:
 - discussing the differences between facilitating faith formation and experiencing worship vs the busyness of “doing” worship,
 - the vision and mission of the Worship Committee,
 - exploring the components of the worship puzzle that combine to present worship, with an eye toward intentionality, what is essential, what we can do better, and what are things we have not done that especially show promise for MCN.
- chewing on ideas developed at the retreat, in subsequent committee meetings. Areas that bubbled up include...
 - worship as faith formation - what can we do to enhance this?
 - abundant use of Scripture in worship
 - inspiring worship - dreaming
 - bulletin design - possible re-design
 - evaluation of listening aids - update or replace
- welcoming three new members to the committee including Julie Musselman, Lydia Hedberg, and Lynette Miller. We have greatly enjoyed the gifts each has brought to our committee and its work.
- participating in the Evidence-Based Feedback Group process through receiving the feedback generated by a group regarding the experience of Advent worship of 2016. The committee formulated a response to the Church Board stating what we heard, and our intentions regarding incorporating that information into our Worship planning.

The work of the Worship Committee often lies in organization of events and empowerment of individuals. The Holy Spirit breathes life into our worship through the gifts of all who beautifully share. We are grateful for your willingness to partner with us.

Cindy Ropp, Chair

Christian Education Committee

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

Family Fun Night was held on Wednesday, April 5. The committee provided the main dish--Zehr Farms Pork BBQ--while others donated additional side items and desserts. The event was well attended with 60+ in attendance. Family Fun Night was close to Easter this year so our theme focused on the Palm Sunday theme and activities. Wesley Hershberger, Lydia Hedberg, Jonah King, and Alena Culbertson led a skit & songs for the group. We rented a bounce house again and other activities included a palm wavers craft, Put the Blanket on the Donkey game, Palm Limbo, and worksheets. 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. \$335 was collected from the Children's Offering from August 2015-May 2016 for His Safe Haven in Liberia, where Blessing Hickman had been living. The organization selected for the summer and current school year is the Northwest Community Center in West Bloomington.

Sunday school classes were split into 4 classes this fall: a four- and five-year old class, a Kdgn./1st grade class, a 2nd grade class, and a 3rd/4th/5th grade class. We are in the fourth year of the "Shine" curriculum. Bibles were given to third graders: Alexandra Neely, Philip Brandon, Grant Reeser, Blessing Hickman, and Aimezy Fataki.

Parents and some volunteers from the congregation staffed summer classes so that the regular teachers could 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 June 25. It was very well attended again and all seemed to really have a great time.

It continues to be a challenge to find people willing to teach classes, even for one day in the summer, and those willing to be on the committee. Many parents of children in the CE program are not members of the church, making us unable to include many good CE committee candidates. We are sad to see Marcia Rossi's term on the committee come to an end, however we are very excited to welcome Spring Neely and Chris Culbertson to the committee in January.

Beth Reeser, Acting Chair

Fellowship Committee

Members of the Fellowship Committee this year were Leanne Schertz, chair; Tim Kauffman, Gerry Schrock, Marge Weaver and Tim Schrag, staff. Abby Warfel also served from January to August.

It was our goal to offer opportunities for fellowship that were easy to access and comfortable for anyone to drop in, whether they had planned ahead or decided at the last minute. We tried to make sure that a congregational activity took place every month. Most of the time the committee planned and carried out the work, but occasionally another group volunteered to offer something.

The committee organized the Relief Sale Celebration lunch, Easter breakfast, and a soup and pie potluck. Meals preceding congregational meetings were prepared and served by the youth group and friends as fundraisers. Two summer picnics were planned: a lunch on the church lawn in June, and the traditional 4th of July picnic in the park. Thanks to Jeremy Haab and the youth group for their help with the June picnic. There were two congregational retreats: the winter weekend at Friedenswald, and the Sunday at Menno Haven in August.

Birthday cards to members of the congregation are the gift of Elfriede Massier, Lois Hochstetler, and Lois Jett.

Special thanks to some individuals and families that organize certain congregational gatherings annually. The Nester-King families planned and prepared the Thanksgiving potluck, and the Kings gave excellent leadership to both the Friedenswald retreat and the 4th of July picnic.

MCN was the venue for a concert by the Bethel College Choir in March. The extended Dick family hosted this group by providing meals and organizing accommodations—a big job!

Finally, I am grateful for the faithful service of those who prepare and serve the coffee and refreshments during fellowship time each Sunday morning. Tim Kauffman coordinates this with Leroy Loepp and Diane Wiman. Unfortunately, we take it for granted that it will always be there and do not say thank you often enough.

Two big projects for the Fellowship Committee came up unexpectedly in 2017. First, the MCC Great Lakes Board held their weekend meeting here in February. Members of the committee and volunteers from the congregation hosted these guests by providing the space, set-up, technical support, food and lodging.

Then to our surprise and dismay, in the early spring the commercial dishwasher in the church kitchen broke down, and shortly after, the refrigerator also stopped working. This unanticipated expense concerned everyone, and the research and recommendation on purchasing replacements required much time and consultation among many people. The appliances have all been replaced, and a new commercial freezer was added to the kitchen. We believe we have a good working kitchen now that will serve us well for a long time.

Leanne Schertz, Chair

Financial Stewardship Committee

Members of our committee are as follows: Linda Clemmons, Chair; Gail Fisher, Carroll Miller, Rick Yoder, Adam Augspurger (Treasurer), Lynn Reha (Staff—Office Manager), and Nathan Miller, an apprentice member.

It has been a very busy year. All the appliances in the kitchen had to be replaced. After many emails and phone calls, a new dishwasher, two refrigerators, and a freezer were purchased for a total expenditure of \$8,216. We received a \$5,000 donation and used Memorial Funds and Capital Improvement & Repair escrow funds to pay the rest. Many people were involved in the decision making as well as removing the old appliances and installing the new ones. We are grateful to all who were a part of this project.

Replacing the air and heating units were finished as originally scheduled. A cold air return was also installed in the preschool nursery room. Heating and cooling problems remain in the office and pastor's area and will be taken care of in 2018.

Special reports on giving patterns were prepared by Adam and Lynn for our review. Due to the large deficit at the end of June, a letter was prepared for the congregation asking for *additional* donations to reduce the deficit. The response was most gratifying.

A Listening Session on the Spending Plan was held in late August as requested by the Church Board. Members from the Board and FSC developed questions to be used in this session. The responses from the Listening Session impacted our development of the Spending Plan.

Removal of the playground equipment was canceled after Church Mutual approved coverage of the present equipment. When the Campus Use Plan is completed, then the playground will be reviewed and updated as needed.

Other items that took place during the year are as follows:

- supported Lynn Reha with tuition costs for a Spiritual Direction program at EMU
- supported Lydia Wilson as she continues with campus ministry in Spain
- heard a report by Larry Schrader on solar energy
- revised FSC Guidelines for Handbook
- changed the electric supplier from Nordic Energy to Xoom at a better rate
- attended the Bi-Annual Leadership Meeting and reported for FSC (Linda)
- had the scratches on the piano buffed out by Doug Ulrich
- replaced seven malfunctioning LED Boards on the electric sign
- prepared the Annual Spending Plan after receiving information from various Committees
- gave a Ministry Moment on two new ways for giving—Give +; phone app (Lynn)

Gail Fisher is completing his third term and Rick Yoder is completing his second term on this committee. We thank them for their time and service.

Linda Clemmons, Chair

Outreach Committee

Members of the Committee: Phylis VerSteegh, Rochelle Augspurger, Dorothy Zehr, and Philip Dick. Jane Roeschley provided staff support.

Business this year included:

1. Bridge of Hope Neighboring Group - a group was formed at MCN with 7 persons. A family was assigned to our group but they moved from the community. We supported this program financially.
2. Joy Care's Jobs Partnership Program Prison Ministry - Michelle Cook, the coordinator of Jobs Partnership, made a presentation to the Committee in 2016. Phil attended two graduations and a job fair for the program and reported to the Committee on the ministry. The Committee asked Phil to be on the Jobs Partnership Board which he now is. Phil went with Michelle Cook on May 10 to the Lincoln Correctional Center for a summit meeting of prisoners who were scheduled to be released within 6 months. Michelle Cook spoke to the Sunday School class studying "The New Jim Crow" book on May 21. Michelle Cook made a Jobs Program presentation at a gathering of representatives of area churches at the MCN on October 12, 2017. Another gathering of representatives of area churches will take place on March 15, 2018 at the MCN. Mary and Joe Jantze are volunteering regularly in this prison ministry and organized a coat drive for their benefit at the MCN.
3. Request to Reinstate CPT in Spending Plan - the Committee requested the Financial Stewardship Committee to re-include in the 2017 budget \$1,811 for Christian Peacemaker Teams.
4. The New Jim Crow Sunday School Elective - we promoted this class which makes Jobs Partnership and Labyrinth important connections for us. The Class was led by Amy Reiman and David Harnish, and over 40 congregants regularly attended.
5. Habitat Build for Kasongo Family - we supported this project.
6. Immanuel Health Center - we supported their office financially.
7. Mental Health Community Forum - we promoted this event which took place from 12:30 PM to 6:30 PM on May 18 at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts and was sponsored by the McLean County Behavioral Health Council. There were 12 breakout sessions as well as a keynote speaker.
8. Nepalese AMBS student from Living Water Church - we financially supported Amos Shakya's AMBS tuition.
9. MCC Relief Sale - we found two new coordinators for 2018 - Deb Stenger and Marcia Rossi. Because of a feedback session, we discussed ways to improve the auction, children's activity areas, and help with people carrying out purchased items.
10. Phylis VerSteegh participated in Labyrinth Outreach Services to Women, another important ministry in our community.
11. Jewish and Palestinian Voices for Peace - This program took place at MCN at 7:00 PM Sunday, May 14. This program was coordinated by Jonathan Brenneman who is a volunteer with MC USA whose job it is to educate Mennonite congregations about what is happening on the West Bank of Palestine in Israel. Steve Sherman was a speaker representing Jewish Voices for Peace and Jonathan Kuttub was a speaker who is a Palestinian Mennonite attorney.
12. MCN website - Dorothy Zehr met with Lynn about having a page focused on volunteer opportunities for the congregation in our community. They decided to focus on one particular volunteer activity and did features on the website about other community organizations and congregation members who volunteer there.

13. The Outreach Committee helped coordinate Quinn Wilson's Video Program on August 6 about making documentaries to support non-profits. Two featured that evening had to do with homelessness in Chicago and refugees in Greece.
14. SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER (SPLC) - several Committee members attended an SPLC program led by outreach director Lecia Brooks who discussed the rise in hate groups and hate crimes and what people can do to combat them. This meeting took place at Bradley University on Tuesday, August 29.
15. NORTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY CENTER - several Committee Members attended a cookout on August 22 and a grand opening for the center on September 16. We financially supported this work at 400 W. Union Street, Bloomington.
16. Widow's Cruise food drive for Home Sweet Home Ministries (HSHM) - we supported Thanksgiving meals for HSHM.
17. MDS TRIP - The Committee supported an MDS trip from October 15-21 to Greenbrier, WV. Gerry Schrock gave testimony at Menno Haven about her June MDS. An MDS trip is planned to the Coastal Bend Area of Texas From February 11-17, 2018 for up to 10 people.
18. The Alternative Gifts Fair raised a total of \$23,900 of which \$16,653 was generated for MCC projects and \$7,247 was generated for AGI projects. Abby Warfel and Sophie Charles were the new coordinators.
19. Tom Neilson is coming to the MCN on April 20, 2018 to give a concert. He has a Christian and an ecology action message.

Philip Dick, Chair

Youth Ministry

The Youth Ministry Committee continues to express its deep appreciation for your prayers and support for all 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 trip to 2017 youth convention of Mennonite Church USA in Orlando, Florida where they served in a community project as well as participation in convention activities. Unfortunately, due to health concerns, Pastor Matt was unable to attend but a special thank you to sponsors Jeremy Haab, Mike Company, Gabriella Harnish and Lauren Satchwell for making this trip a success! The committee and I thank the congregation for their generosity in both giving and participating at all the youth fundraiser events held this year.

Convention and other spending has depleted the reserve fund and we look to continue fundraising in the next year, providing congregational meeting meals. Planning has already begun for SWAP in Hindman KY for next summer. With an anticipated 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 remained at high attendance levels, while the JMYF is somewhat smaller again this year.

A sincere thank you to those who have previously served during 2016-2017: JMYF sponsors Chris & Cory Culbertson, and assistants Lotus and Judy Hershberger; MYF sponsors Mike Company, Gabriella Harnish, and Jeremy Haab; and Pastor Tim Schrag and Pastor Matt Hickman. Also thank you to those who will be serving in the next year: JMYF sponsors Darvis and Shelly King, and assistants David and Abby Warfel; MYF sponsors Jeremy Haab and Lauren Satchwell.

Finding volunteers for the youth program continues to be the committee's greatest challenge, affecting every aspect of our youth program. Consistently there are no congregation members who indicate on the Offering My Gifts Form their desire to serve as sponsors for either junior high or high school youth groups. The committee often gets down to the wire when looking for adults to accompany the youth to convention, service trips or substitute in Sunday school.

The lack of volunteers affects the committee's ability to begin new initiatives that would require even a handful of volunteers committed to longer-term engagement. One example would be beginning a formal mentoring program again. To do one-on-one mentoring, as happened in the past, would require 20 adult mentors, one for each high school student. This formal mentoring of youth by adults cannot happen without willing and committed volunteers and perhaps a modified version of smaller groups could be explored by the committee.

The MYF fall schedule will also incorporate at-church service projects in which the JMYF will join. The sponsors will keep looking at ways to utilize and improve peer-to-peer mentoring.

I would also thank our committee: Darvis King, Chellie Miller and Lauren Satchwell who faithfully served on Youth Ministry Committee this past year. My term will be ending this year and due to other extensive time commitments, I will also be ending my service to the committee.

There will be significant challenges in the years ahead with the lack of a youth pastor. Efforts by the committee and others will continue the mission of excellent youth program stewardship and the placement of Lauren Satchwell as Youth Ministry Leader will assist in these efforts.

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

There are many who are enkindled with dreamy devotion, and when they hear of the poverty of Christ, they are almost angry with the citizens of Bethlehem. They denounce their blindness and ingratitude, and think, if they had been there, they would have shown the Lord and his mother a more kindly service and would not have permitted them to be treated so miserably. But they do not look by their side to see how many of their fellow humans need their help, and which they ignore in their misery. Who is there upon earth that has no poor, miserable, sick, erring ones around him? Why does he not exercise his love to those? Why does he not do to them as Christ has done to him?

Source: Martin Luther, from [Watch for the Light](#)

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:

- High School Peace Initiative - We are working to develop a program based on a model from the Hively Mennonite Church in Elkhart, IN, aiming at education of students and school counselors about providing information and alternative service options to U.S. Military service. We hope to pilot this with our own youth and then take it into Unit 5 schools.
- “The New Jim Crow” by Michelle Alexander - Amy Reiman and David Harnish led a Sunday School class starting in February at the MCN by discussing this book. She indicated that the book is about mass incarceration and asked for suggestions from the committee for ideas to make the class relevant in our community.
- Humanity Summit by the YWCA - we promoted this event at Illinois Wesleyan on November 17th. Phil explained that the summit did a great job discussing the importance of understanding and positively dealing with discrimination by race, gender, gender conformity, sexual orientation and ability.
- Jobs Partnership Program Prison Ministry - Phil Dick serves on the Board of this organization and attended two graduations and a job fair for the program and reports to the Committee on the ministry. He also coordinated a presentation for representatives of area churches at 5:30 PM on October 12, 2017 at the MCN.
- MCC Relief Sale - We ran a booth at the sale and also served at the Meet the Mennonites booth. We handed out literature and served hot tea.
- Bloomington’s Welcoming Cities Ordinance- Henry Dick is involved in discussion with people about this possibility and has kept us informed as well as promoting involvement when the opportunities arise.
- Jewish and Palestinian Voices for Peace Program - We promoted this program and it took place at 7:00 PM on Sunday, May 14 at MCN. This was coordinated by Jonathan Brenneman, a Mennonite Church USA Voluntary Service Worker whose assignment was to educate church members about peace opportunities in the West Bank in Israel. The speakers were Steve Sherman representing Jewish Voices for Peace, and Jonathan Kuttab, a Palestinian Mennonite Human Rights Lawyer.
- City of Bloomington Civilian Review Board - Henry worked with several local groups to establish a citizen oversight Board for the Bloomington Police Department. The Committee supported this initiative. A citizen oversight Board was subsequently approved by the Bloomington City Council on July 24. Abby and Henry spoke in support of this at public meetings at City Hall.

- Tom Neilson Concert - We will have a fund raising concert on Friday, April 20, 2018 at MCN. His music speaks to a variety of social justice issues.
- Alternative Gifts Fair - Abby and Sophie Charles will coordinate this event on November 12 and 19.
- Cookout with Northwest Community Center - several committee members attended this event.
- SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER (SPLC) - Several Committee members attended an SPLC program led by outreach director Lecia Brooks who discussed the rise in hate groups and hate crimes and what people can do to combat them. This meeting took place at Bradley University on Tuesday, August 29.
- Returning Citizens Care Kits- In coordination with the Outreach Committee, we are coordinating the collection of these kits in January and February to distribute through the Labyrinth Project and the Jobs Partnership program.
- Church Finances- We remain concerned and would like to have a voice in the larger church issue of how to handle budget deficits in the future- especially in regard to monies available to the Outreach and Peace and Justice Committees.
- LGBTQ- We have begun discussion of how this issue fits into our justice mission statement and are exploring how we can assist in the larger congregational conversation on this topic.

I would like to thank our Committee members for their dedication and hard work this past year: John Bertsche, Meredith Schroeer, Henry Dick, Gerlof Homan, Joe Jantze, Gabriella Harnish, and Secretary Phil Dick. 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

The Wellness Committee members met on a monthly basis. Those members included Marge Nester, Vivian Hubbard, Deb Stenger, Bess Desch, Sophie Charles, Gabriella Harnish, and Leah Roeschley.

MCN was the site of two successful blood drives, one in April and one in November. While November drew a lower attendance, overall it continues to be a drive that keeps the Red Cross employees busy. Marge Nester serves as the lead contact person and donor recruiter.

Marge Nester, as Parish Nurse, also 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 major undertaking this year was planning and leading a Christian Education class focused on Trauma and Healing. Leah Roeschley and Bess Desch did behind the scenes organizing and planning. Lynn Reha and Vivian Hubbard outlined the class, based off a book “The Little Book of Trauma Healing” by Carolyn Yoder, and they were the facilitators of the class. There were many guest speakers from the congregation and community that spoke throughout the weeks. The class seemed to speak to many of those who attended and presented.

The Wellness Committee also helped carve an opportunity for the Alzheimer’s Association to present to people within the MCN community. That opportunity was with a fall presentation at the Homebuilder’s Meeting.

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

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 2017 our women's group:

- Cut blocks and knotted comforters for MCC, with 8 completed and delivered.
- 6 Knit child-size sweaters
- Cut, sewed, and filled 108 hygiene kits
- Cut, sewed, and filled 170 school kits
- Peeled, cooked and prepared apples to be used for pies for the Relief Sale: 37 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
- MW USA for (23) 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), and Fall Jazz Fest have been 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 Work Day for knotting comforters, and small Christmas party with refreshments, and hot spiced cider.

Officers for 2017 include Hazel Yoder, President. _____, 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.

During 2017 the Committee has undertaken a revision of the original guidelines primarily due to the changes in MCN structure of a few years ago. At the end of 2017 those revised guidelines have been submitted to the MCN Board for approval. The brochure will also need some revision if the revised guidelines are approved.

Also during 2017 we received our first planned giving gift from the estate of Rachel Zehr. The gift was \$10,000 and the Committee decided that this should be used for SMAP over a five-year period with \$2,000 each year beginning in 2017-18.

When the new brochure is complete, we will ask to do a Ministry Moment to make people aware of the Committee’s work and also to officially announce the gift from the Rachel Zehr estate.

The Committee stands 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 consider such and who could assist one in working out the details of such gifts.

Lotus Hershberger, Chair

Junior High Youth Fellowship

In 2017, the junior high youth continued their routine of regular Sunday night meetings. Besides our Sunday night meetings, we had a few special events. In the winter, we attended the Menno Haven Winter Retreat, enjoying time with junior highers from around Illinois. In the spring, Pastor Tim hosted a fish fry for us and we finished the year with a very cold cookout at East White Park. We then handed the leadership reins over to Darvis and Shelly King. The group has continued to meet on Sunday nights and also enjoyed a fall retreat at Menno Haven. They had a great time enjoying the camp and doing a service project there.

Chris and Cory Culbertson, JMYF Leaders through summer 2017

Homebuilders

Homebuilders remained active this year under the direction of Terry Wiebenga and Lotus Hershberger. Six events occurred during the year, three in the spring and three in the fall.

They were as follows:

Feb 26, 2017 Charlotte Alvarez spoke of her work with the Immigration Project.

March 26, 2017 Steve Stenger talked about his work with the new Farm Exhibit at the Mclean County Historical Museum.

April 23, 2017 Loren & Deanna Moshier gave an illustrated presentation of their South Africa Safari.

Sept 24, 2017 Joanna Oyer explained her work with OSF Hospice and the services & opportunities offered.

Oct 22, 2017 Elizabeth Hagemann shared literature and identified 10 signs of early Alzheimer's.

Nov 19, 2017 Gabby Bontea, Director of the Salvation Army Safe Harbor Shelter, spoke of her work with the Shelter and homeless people here in Bloomington/Normal.

Although attendance has been small, the programs have been interesting and informative to those present. Suggestions for possible programs are always welcome.

Lotus Hershberger and Terry Wiebenga, Coordinators for 2017

Cemetery Trustees

2017 saw a great deal of activity for the Mennonite Church of Normal (Ropp) Cemetery.

In February contact was made with Ameren power company due to another topping of the evergreens on the West side. They indicate that they violate code if they reach near 10 feet. Ameren agreed to take the trees down on the west side and dispose of the branches. They offered to give us \$250 for some replanting.

On May 20th we held a work day involving some major work. The tree logs were piled and burned along with trimming from the other Cemetery trees. A dead tree on the North side was cut and the large stumps of the cut trees were ground out anticipating new plantings on the West side. Cemetery stones were washed and trimmed.

The Trustees also decided to remove the old wire fencing on the North and West sides and replace it with cable to match the South and East sides. Several trustees completed this task a few weeks later.

The next major task was to decide what to plant on the West side. After numerous meetings and consultations an agreement was made to plant 24 dwarf Alberta spruce. Greider Nursery gave us a 30% discount and upgraded 3 gallon pots to 7 gallon pots with a full year's guarantee. Several Trustees assisted in the planting again reducing the overall cost. They were then watered every several days for 10 weeks to insure a good start. The trees will grow to from 8' to 10' at maturity.

Some 82 plots are sold with 28 burials to date. Burials this year included Laura Oyer and Gerlof Homan.

Terms of John Reimer, Ron Ropp and Steve Stenger run through 2018 and terms for Phil Dick, Mary Jantze and Mannie Oyer run through 2021.

Ron Ropp, Chair

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 on June 11, 2017 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 ~ 56,000. We pledged ~ 48,000. At the writing of this report we had raised over 54,000. We continue to support all college students with care packages throughout the year and if you have not had a chance to see the updated awesome college student bulletin Board in the library take a look--thanks again Annette Harnish. This year we sent four students to Mennonite colleges: Meredith Satchwell (Junior) and Ryan Miller (Sophomore) returned to Goshen College adding Clara Unzicker (Freshman) to their fold as well. Bluffton University is being represented by Caitlin Haab (Junior). Costs continue to increase modestly but could be significant in 1-2 years 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 2017

BANK ACCOUNTS	1050	
CHECKING ACCOUNTS	1100	
General Ckg-Heartland Ban	1120	\$66,102.56
SAVINGS ACCOUNTS	1200	
Money Mkt-1st St.Bk-0.30%	1210	98,498.18
Subtotal Bank Accounts	1050	164,600.74
TOTAL ASSETS		\$164,600.74
PAYROLL DEDUCTS PAYABLE	2000	
Pension Funds Withheld	2040	\$2,833.33
DESIGNATED FUNDS	2099	
SPECIFIC PURPOSE FUNDS	2100	
SMAP Fund	2103	4,928.77
Cemetery Fund	2104	9,671.80
Mennonite Women	2105	147.21
Ministerial Prep Fund	2106	80.01
MDS Trips Fund	2107	10.00
CPT Trips Fund	2108	4,553.17
Organ/Piano Maint. Fund	2129	8,967.61
Subtotal Specific Purpose Funds	2100	28,358.57
OTHER DESIGNATED FUNDS	2300	
Cap Imprv & Repair Escrow	2302	21,130.85
Sunday School Offering	2305	266.12
Missional Giving Fund	2306	4,348.37
MYF Reserve	2308	1,915.47
JMYF Reserve	2309	574.43
Campus Enhancement Escrow	2311	13,213.08
Mutual Aid-Miscellaneous	2320	2,520.91
Prepaid 2018 Contribution	2330	19,000.00
Accr'd N-Local 1st Fruits	2350	152.80
Above Budget - MCC	2351	18.12
Accr'd Ministry Support	2352	3,310.00
Planned Giving Funds	2356	8,000.01
Misc. Designated Funds	2361	-75.11
Special Registration	2361-100	3,326.22
Subtotal Misc. Designated Funds	2361	3,251.11
Subtotal Other Designated Funds	2300	77,701.27
MEMORIAL FUNDS	2400	4,275.93
Subtotal Designated Funds	2099	110,335.77
TOTAL LIABILITIES		113,169.10
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted Net-Current	3110	\$3,878.00
Unrestricted--Prior Years	3120	47,553.64
TOTAL NET ASSETS		51,431.64
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		\$164,600.74

Funds Received and Disbursed in Addition to Budget

	Balance 01/01/2017	Funds Disbursed (Debit))	Funds Received(Credit)	Balance 12/31/2017
Pension Funds Withheld	0	31,193	34,026	2,833
DESIGNATED FUNDS				
SPECIFIC PURPOSE FUNDS				
Student Mutual Aid Program (SMAP)	32,828.71	89,431.38	61,531.44	4,928.77
Cemetery Fund	11,649.18	2,762.91	785.53	9,671.80
Mennonite Women	380.56	1477.35	1244.00	147.21
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	8,939.50	0.00	28.11	8,967.61
Subtotal - Specific Purpose Funds	58,541.13	93,671.64	63,589.08	28,358.57
OTHER DESIGNATED FUNDS				
Capital Improve. & Repair Escrow	17,757.47	19,686.60	23,059.98	21,130.85
Sunday School Offering	172.73	760.01	854.40	266.12
Missionary Giving Fund	4,335.74	0.00	13.63	4,348.37
MYF Fundraising Reserve	5,996.48	19,862.85	15,436.84	1,570.47
MYF Family Contribution	2,415.00	5100.00	3,030.00	345.00
JMYF Reserve & Family Contrib.	104.43	0.00	470	574.43
Campus Enhancement Escrow	13,213.08	0.00	0.00	13,213.08
Mutual Aid - Miscellaneous	5,008.78	6,094.41	3,607.54	2,521.91
Prepaid 2018 Contribution	0.00	0.00	19,000.00	19,000.00
Accrued N-Local 1 st Fruits	2,130.00	114,093.04	112,115.84	152.80
Above Budget MCC	18.12	0.00	0.00	18.12
Accrued Ministry Support	350.00	3,040.00	6,000.00	3,310.00
Planned Giving Funds	0.01	2,000.00	10,000.00	8,000.01
Miscellaneous Designated Funds:				
Periodicals	-297.95	883.00	1,506.50	325.55
Relief Sale Quilts	16.68	5,516.68	5,650.00	150.00
Alternative Gifts Fair	0.00	23,940.10	23,940.10	0.00
Funeral and other Meals	6.81	61.48	61.48	6.81
Quilt Blocks for MCC	-40	0.00	0.00	-40
HAAQG and Wild Ones A/V	85.00	240.00	270.00	115.00
Menno Haven Sunday	-131.76	776.57	811.50	-96.83
Miscellaneous	-12.00	1,118.00	1,118.00	-12.00
VORP	1,113.00	0.00	0.00	1,113.00
Camp Friedenswald Weekend	-1,440.00	3,625.00	2,645.00	-2,420.00
Peace and Justice Project	500.00	0.00	112.00	612.00
Adult CE Books	102.21	0.00	0.00	102.19
North Main Project	0.00	122.43	135.00	12.57
Sister Care	56.60	0.00	0.00	56.60
Subtotal - Miscellaneous Designated	-41.41	36,283.26	36,249.58	-75.11
Special Registration	0.00	0.00	3,326.22	3,326.22
MEMORIAL FUNDS				
Anna Mae Reeser	2,067.58	2,067.58	0.00	0.00
Doug Poag	300.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
Alta Litwiller	1,500.00	233.00	0.00	1,267.00
Royale Diveley	1,748.49	0.00	0.00	1,748.49
Rachel Zehr	685.44	0.00	0.00	685.44
Gerlof Homan	0.00	0.00	275.00	275.00
Subtotal - Memorial Funds	6,301.00			4,275.93
Subtotal Designated Funds				110,335.77
TOTAL LIABILITIES				113,169.10
NET ASSETS				
Unrestricted Net—Current Year				3,878.00
Unrestricted -Prior Years				47,553.64
Unrestricted Net Assets				51,431.64
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	163,605.64			164,600.74

Mennonite Church of Normal
Consolidated Income and Expense Statement
January 1, 2017-December 31, 2017

	2017 Actual	Budget %	2017 S. Plan	2018 Prop. S. Plan
INCOME				
Unified Spending Plan	520,552.20			
Tapes/CD's Sold	15.17			
Use of Church Building	5,640.00			
Janitor Svc - Head Start	3,783.00			
Janitor FICA - Head Start	289.41			
Janitor Supps -Head Start	628.18			
Waste Pick-up -Head Start	1,476.39			
Family Fun Night	-310.00			
Interest Income	19.38			
Miscellaneous Income	86.35			
TOTAL INCOME	532,180.08			
EXPENSES				
BUDGETED EXPENSES				
MUSIC AND WORSHIP				
Honorariums	400.00	100.00%	400.00	400.00
Worship Materials	340.74	68.15%	500.00	500.00
Music License & Sbscrptns.	0.00	0.00%	200.00	200.00
Projects	0.00	0.00%	200.00	200.00
Junior Choir	0.00	0.00%	150.00	150.00
Choir & Accomp. Music	982.72	122.84%	800.00	1,000.00
Organ/Piano Tunings	1,905.00	153.01%	1,245.00	1,245.00
SUBTOTAL MUSIC & WORSH.	3,628.46	103.82%	3,495.00	3,695.00
EDUCATION				
Background Screening	17.25	17.25%	100.00	50.00
S. S. Materials	2,132.61	94.78%	2,250.00	2,100.00
S. S. Supplies	17.52	7.01%	250.00	50.00
Nursery Staff Person	3,367.75	96.22%	3,500.00	3,500.00
Nursery Supplies	79.70	159.40%	50.00	50.00
Family Fun Night	0.00	0.00%	400.00	400.00
Teacher Training	0.00	0.00%	50.00	0.00
Teacher Appreciation	80.00	53.33%	150.00	125.00
Children's Ministry	0.00	0.00%	0.00	2000.00
SUBTOTAL EDUCATION	5,694.83	84.37%	6,750.00	8,475.00

	2017 Actual	Budget %	2017 S Plan	2018 S Plan
YOUTH MINISTRY				
MYF - Activities	9,392.85	105.54%	8,900.00	8,900.00
MYF - Transportation	5,600.00	100.00%	5,600.00	3,600.00
Christian Education	193.21	64.40%	300.00	300.00
Sponsor Training	0.00	0.00%	100.00	100.00
JMYF - Activities	1,869.51	51.93%	3,600.00	2,600.00
JMYF - Transportation	370.92	30.00%	1,200.00	1,000.00
Discipleship Materials	91.33	36.53%	250.00	250.00
Youth Ministry Comm.-Misc.	0.00	0.00%	350.00	400.00
Youth Pastor Misc.	93.90	26.83%	350.00	300.00
SUBTOTAL YOUTH MINISTRY	17,611.72	85.29%	20,650.00	17,450.00
CHURCH BUILDING				
Electric Sign Maintenance	4,270.00	0.00%	0.00	2,500.00
Janitor Service	17,631.50	117.54%	15,000.00	15,300.00
Janitor FICA	1,337.12	116.47%	1,148.00	1,170.00
Janitor Supplies	2,210.43	138.15%	1,600.00	1,650.00
Maintenance & Minor Repairs	2,673.74	50.93%	5,250.00	2,400.00
Equipment	1,876.93	37.54%	5,000.00	4,000.00
Electricity	6,791.11	104.48%	6,500.00	6,500.00
Natural Gas	4,496.43	89.93%	5,000.00	5,200.00
Water & Sewer	2,384.06	132.45%	1,800.00	2,100.00
Waste Pick-up	2,506.55	139.25%	1,800.00	2,100.00
Telecommunications	4,475.04	124.31%	3,600.00	3,800.00
Insurance	13,720.75	119.31%	11,500.00	11,000.00
Snow Removal	548.00	42.15%	1,300.00	1,200.00
Cap Improvement & Repair	18,000.00	100.00%	18,000.00	16,800.00
Mowing & Ground Care	3,005.11	100.17%	3,000.00	3,000.00
FSC Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	125.00	0.00
Campus Enhancements	0.00	0.00%	3,000.00	0.00
SUBTOTAL CHURCH BLD.	85,926.77	102.76%	83,623.00	78,720.00
FELLOWSHIP				
Fellowship Supplies	1,477.25	164.14%	900.00	900.00
Church Dinners	425.60	47.30%	900.00	700.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00%	300.00	300.00
SUBTOTAL FELLOWSHIP	1,902.94	90.62%	2,100.00	1,900.00

	2017 Actual	Budget %	2017 S. Plan	2018 Prop. S. Plan
STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION				
Salaries	193,733.68	100.44%	192,883.00	173,707.00
FICA	2,529.43	101.91%	2,482.00	3,679.00
Pension	14,706.12	83.24%	17,665.00	12,539.00
Life, AD & D & LTD Insurance	1,360.68	101.02%	1,347.00	1,574.00
Medical Insurance	48,304.92	101.43%	47,625.00	41,906.00
Car Allowance (Mileage)	2,545.70	72.73%	3,500.00	2,800.00
Continuing Ed	4,190.50	90.12%	4,650.00	3,500.00
Conference Expense	3,997.17	181.69%	2,200.00	1,000.00
Health Savings Account	8,211.00	100.00%	8,211.00	6,802.00
Office Expenses	3,799.16	108.55%	3,500.00	3,500.00
Direct Giving Fees	1,505.40	88.55%	1,700.00	1,500.00
SUBTOTAL STAFF & ADMIN	284,883.76	99.69%	285,763.00	251,913.00
CONGREGATIONAL NURTURE				
Adult CE Materials	785.99	78.60%	1,000.00	1,000.00
Library	335.49	111.83%	300.00	300.00
Camperships	721.00	57.68%	1,250.00	1,250.00
Pastoral Council	253.55	50.71%	500.00	500.00
Wellness	54.00	13.59%	400.00	400.00
Laity Training	357.52	26.00%	1,375.00	500.00
Cluster Group Support	328.33	23.45%	1,400.00	700.00
Experienced-Based Feedback	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
SUBTOTAL CONG. NURTURE	2,835.00	45.56%	6,225.00	4,850.00
FIRST FRUITS - LOCAL				
Outreach	7610.88	84.57%	9,000.00	9,000.00
Indigent Assistance	291.00	72.75%	400.00	400.00
Peace and Justice	0.00	0.00%	3,000.00	3,000.00
SUB FRST FRUITS - LOCAL	7,901.88	63.72%	12,400.00	12,400.00

	Current Period	Budget %	2017 S. Plan	2018 Prop. S. Plan
FIRST FRUITS: NON-LOCAL				
Mennonite Mission Network	45,810.00	100.00%	45,810.00	45,810.00
IL Mennonite Conference	15,054.48	100.00%	15,054.00	15,054.00
Central District Conf	15,054.48	100.00%	15,054.00	15,054.00
Menn Education Assoc MEA	15,598.56	100.00%	15,599.00	15,599.00
Menn Central Comm MCC	3,953.40	100.01%	3,953.00	3,953.00
Menno Haven Camp	4,105.68	99.99%	4,106.00	4,106.00
Camp Friedenswald	4,105.68	99.99%	4,106.00	4,106.00
Maple Lawn Homes	919.08	100.01%	919.00	919.00
Meadows Mennonite Home	1,838.16	100.01%	1,838.00	1,838.00
Christian Peacemaker Teams	1,800.00	0.00%	0.00	1,838.00
MennoMedia	1,838.16	100.01%	1,838.00	1,838.00
Menn Disaster Service MDS	1,838.16	100.01%	1,838.00	1,838.00
Ministry Support	6,000.00	100.00%	6,000.00	4,000.00
SUB. FST. FRTS: NON-LCAL	117,915.84	101.55%	116,115.00	115,953.00
 TOTAL EXPENSES/Spending Plans	 528,302.08	 98.36%	 537,121.00	 495,356.00
 EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES	 3,878.00	 -0.72%		

Financial Statements prepared by Lynn Reha, Office Manager, and reviewed by 2018 Chair of the Financial Stewardship Committee, Lotus Hershberger

Audit

Financial Stewardship Committee

Mennonite Church of Normal

Financial records of the Mennonite Church of Normal for the Year Ended December 31, 2017 have been examined. Bank Statements were reconciled to balances on the 12/31/17 Balance Sheet. Although the review was limited in scope there were no discrepancies which resulted in reports as presented to be correct. Internal control is sufficient with three to four persons involved at specific points to keep activity in check.

Balance Sheet changes were made in the Net Asset (end section). These changes were made to better describe the amounts on these two lines and make future activity more understandable. This manner of presenting is in keeping with generally accepted accounting principles.

Robert L. Kauffman, Auditor

January 18, 2018

Mennonite Residential Community (MRC)

Members of the 2017 MRC Board include: Roger Clemmons, Marilea White, Dorothy Loepp, Julie Musselman, Larry Reeser, Larry Schraeder, (vice chairperson), Bob Kauffman (treasurer), John Gundy (secretary), and Terry Wiebenga (chairperson). Five members of the Board are appointed to five-year terms by the Mennonite Church of Normal. Four members are elected to four-year terms by the MRC Residents Association.

Major events for 2017 include:

- The Board has and continues to discuss solar energy. Shannon Fulton, Straight Up Solar, presented available options at an informational meeting in August. Currently, the Board is waiting on Community Solar to be available.
- Job Descriptions of MRC Employees* has been completed and will be added to the MRC Handbook.
- Exposed Tree Roots throughout the MRC have been cut out by 4 Seasons.
- Resealing of several driveways has been completed.
- Concrete repair of sidewalks has been completed and driveways will be completed in the Spring of 2018.
- Jan Gundy, Jim Bortell, and Jeff Overright have begun planning for work on the Nature Preserve using native plants, shrubs and trees.
- Larry Reeser (MCN) has completed his first term and has agreed to continue for a 2nd term.
- John Gundy (MRCRA) has completed his first term and has agreed to continue for a 2nd term.

Thanks to Manny Oyer, 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.

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 4 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.

This year our classroom at Mennonite Church of Normal has changed in the length of our school day. The children now attend 5 days a week for 6 hours. Which is a big change from previous years for both the children and staff. We still serve ages three, four and five years, and their families. Our teaching team this year: 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. Emily Evanson is the Family Resource Advocate for our classroom. Currently we do not have a classroom assistant, as Ms. Ana who was with us last year and at the beginning of this school year, decided to stay home with her new baby daughter.

Finally, I would like to extend an invitation to each one of you to join us. We are always looking for volunteers in our classroom, especially those who would like to read to the children in a small group.

Aimee Wright, Lead Teacher

