

Community Mennonite Church

2017 Annual Report

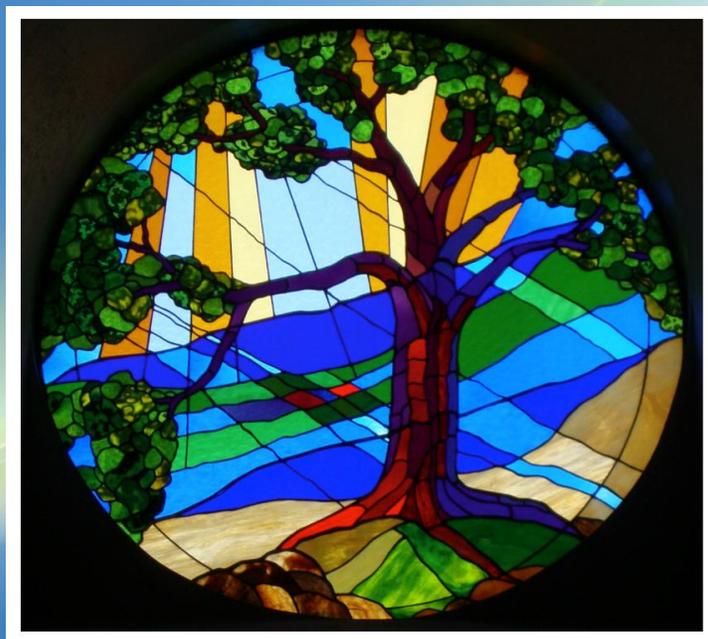


Table of Contents

COUNCIL CHAIR REPORT	1
LEAD PASTOR'S REPORT	3
ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION	5
Finance Committee	5
Grants Committee	6
Rental Manager.....	7
Grounds Committee	8
COMMUNITY LIFE COMMISSION	9
Hospitality Committee.....	10
Small Group Committee	11
Greeters Committee.....	11
Prayer Partner Committee	11
Adult Education Committee	12
OUTREACH COMMISSION.....	13
Everence Representative.....	14
WORSHIP COMMISSION.....	15
Ushers Committee	16
Sound System Volunteers	16
YOUTH COMMISSION	17
Sunday School	17
Nursery	17
Junior MYF	17
Senior MYF	18
Mentor Coordinator	19
Child Protection Committee	20

Council Chair Report

Our congregation and Church Council spent 2017 living into the vision initiatives we discerned in 2016. This included creating a Green Congregation Task Force, launching the Kid's Club, exploring a Mennonite Voluntary Service Unit, and beginning to think about interchurch/interfaith activities that would expand our congregation's local relationships.

2017 Council members were:

- Chair - Heidi Derstine
- Vice-Chair - Aili Huber
- Administration Commission Chair - Larry Miller
- Outreach Commission Chair - Hadley Jenner
- Worship Commission Co-Chairs - Greg Yoder & Brendon Derstine
- Community Life Commission Chair - Lee Good
- Youth Commission Chair - Joyce Peachey Lind
- Member-at-Large - Elena Histan Stuckey

Pastor Jennifer Davis Sensenig served as the Pastoral Team representative on Council with our church administrator recording minutes.

Personnel Committee included Council Chair, Vice-Chair, Administration Chair and the Lead Pastor. In August, our church administrator Ellen Quinlin, moved to North Carolina to be near family. We filled her position by hiring Delbert Wenger to manage the church's day-to-day finances and Joyce Peachey Lind to serve as church administrator. This has been a positive transition.

From mid-May to mid-September, Jennifer was on sabbatical. We appreciated the assistance of many individuals who helped complete Jennifer's tasks during this time.

Pastor Dayna's first four-year term will be completed on May 31, 2018. The congregation affirmed Pastor Dayna's ministry through an extensive review, and in December voted in favor of extending another three-and-a-half year term to Pastor Dayna. Pastor Dayna recently informed the Personnel Committee that she has received a grant from the Louisville Institute to fund a sabbatical in the summer of 2018. Council approved the sabbatical, with the Personnel Committee now in the process of working out the details.

Council passed a number of policies this year, which included:

- Sexual Abuse Policy
- Emergency Preparedness Plan
- CMC's Response to Immigrants and Sanctuary issues
- Endowment Form Agreement

To read through the policies, you will find the CMC policy manual at:

<http://cmcva.org/about/policies-statements-and-positions/>.

Council updated the bylaws this year with the congregation approving the changes in December. One change made was that CMC trustees are not selected by the Gifts Discernment Committee. The CMC trustees will be the CMC Council Chair, Vice-Chair, and the Chair of the Administration Commission. We also changed the terms for Council Commission Chairs. They will serve 1 year as chair-elect, followed by a 2-year term as chair. Finally, a few minor changes to update language was approved.

A task force was created to review the structure of gifts discernment including pastoral team members and gifts discernment committee members. The Gifts Discernment Committee will continue to find individuals for key leadership roles, with commission chairs responsible for finding individuals for their various committees. The Gifts Discernment Committee will start a database to track interest and gifts of congregation members and regular attenders. Brendon Derstine will serve as the Gifts Discernment Chair starting in January 2018.

Council formed a task force to continue exploring CMC's relationship with Virginia Mennonite Conference. The task force, consisting of Anna Bishop, Mike Brislen, Lee Good, Simone Horst, Del Snyder, Elena Histan Stuckey and Rick Yoder, will be working creatively with VMC leaders to find CMC's place in the conference moving forward.

I encourage you to check out the master calendar at <http://cmcva.org/connect/master-calendar/> created by Aili Huber, our office and technology chair. Our building is used by numerous groups and organizations each week.

Council invites you to stay current on our events by reviewing our meeting minutes at: <http://cmcva.org/commissions/church-council/council-meeting-minutes/>.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Church Council Chair. I am grateful for the love and support you have provided me during the past three years on Council and appreciate the deeper relationships I have built with many of you. May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13).

Peace,

Heidi Derstine
Council Chair

Lead Pastor's Report

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)*

During the past year CMC welcomed 18 new members: 13 transfers and 5 baptisms. These testimonies of faith offered in worship inspired long-time members, and the next generation. We welcomed 4 new babies born to CMCers and grieved together the loss of Ella Mae Derstine. Pastors hosted 5 gatherings for new attenders to become better acquainted with CMC and build relationships.

Living into a couple of new initiatives from our 2016 vision work, CMC's Arts Committee has connected us with local artists and the community by offering our fellowship hall and hallway as a small gallery during First Fridays. We encountered some obstacles in our efforts to begin a voluntary service unit in the Dean House, but we continue to have vision and energy for this and expect the way will be clear in 2018. Near the end of the year two ministry areas of active discernment for CMC began to move forward: 1) we launched a Kids Club that is aligned with Patchwork Pantry's schedule to share the message of God's love from scripture and build relationships with local children and families, and 2) we voted to establish a Green Congregation committee. Some of the emphases in our vision were core practices and we appreciate how commissions, pastoral team and many other CMCers have helped us grow through: Bible study, welcoming children and youth, and stories in worship.

In 2017 CMC sent a team to participate in the Everence sponsored resource event: Cultivating Congregational Cultures of Generosity. Larry Miller, Heidi Derstine, Dave Cockley and I were our team and Teresa Boshart Yoder (Everence staff) and Lonnie Yoder were also in attendance, so multiple generations and perspectives from CMCers generated creative plans for encouraging generous living in response to God's generous love for us. CMC's Living Generously worship series (April-May) was informed by the reading, presentations, and discussion from the workshop. We also integrated what we learned through developing a narrative budget and attractive communication pieces for our CMC ministries and spending plan. We added more electronic giving options for CMCers and practiced Jubilee, alleviating some of the credit card and educational debt burden among CMCers by sharing surplus with brothers and sisters in the congregation. For our Christmas peace offering we gave a generous donation to a Cheese Ministry that supported both local dairy farmers and folks experiencing food insecurity.

From mid-May through mid-Sep of 2017 I enjoyed a sabbatical that CMC offered and I was granted funding for some special projects through the Louisville Institute. My focus was related to systems theory and Biblical studies. Highlights of the sabbatical were coursework and consultation with Dr. Glenda Eoyang, originator of Human Systems Dynamics; studying the St. John's Bible--a contemporary large-scale illuminated text; attending the Network of Biblical Storytellers' Festival Gathering where I received coaching in Biblical Storytelling; and enjoying time to write, rest and gain a refreshed vision for ministry. The sabbatical was better than I had hoped and I'm so grateful for CMC's commitment to me in this way. A portion of the grant funded guest speakers, arts-based worship services during the summer, and ministry resources for CMC's staff team, including the LPI 360 instrument focused on leadership practices.

In the fall I was elected to serve another term as president of Faith in Action. This has been very satisfying work. Our focus this cycle is local criminal justice reform and there are many CMCers connected to this work as Covenant Representatives (Kent Davis Sensenig and Aliese Gingerich) staff (Art Stoltzfus), Issues Committee Chairperson (Hadley Jenner) and others whose work in this area precedes Faith in Action's, especially Pastor Jason and Ruth Stoltzfus Jost.

I lead CMC's staff team of gifted and committed people. I enjoy working closely with Pastor Jason and Pastor Dayna. We had a transition this year in our church administrator position as Ellen Quinlin moved to North Carolina. Reconfiguring this position, we hired Joyce Peachy Lind as Church Administrator and Delbert Wenger as staff for church finances. We have been living into this new configuration for 5 months and we are very pleased with the new additions to our staff team. We are all grateful as well for our terrific custodians, Craig Serrels and Kent Davis Sensenig. Together as a staff, with spouses and families, we enjoyed a Christmas celebration together. In addition to our three pastors our pastoral team this year has included three pastoral elders--Esther Stenson, Mike Brislen and Jan Jenner who just completed her third year. Grateful for Jan's service, especially her wise counsel in complex situations that pastors faced, we are anticipating Matt Hunsberger's service in 2018 and various ministry interns.

For 2018 CMC Council and Pastoral Team chose a couple verses, which we believe will carry us through our discernment related to our relationship with Virginia Mennonite Conference and the ordinary everyday work and wonder of being church together in a society that needs a faithful and winsome witness to the way of Jesus.

*Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry,
we do not lose heart.
But we have this treasure in clay jars,
so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power comes from God
and does not belong to us. II Corinthians 4:1,7*

Pastor Jennifer Davis Sensenig

Administration Commission Report

The Administration Commission is responsible for managing the congregation's resources. As I moved into this role, I greatly appreciated the good information handed to me by Ruth Stoltzfus Jost and her work in organizing the commission. It made for a smooth transition.

We had a review of our insurance coverages and decided to change coverage to a new carrier that insures churches and church organizations. The new package of coverages were more comprehensive and specially designed for congregational risks. Coverage also includes a \$1 million umbrella liability coverage. We were able to save approximately \$2,000 on our annual premium.

We reviewed our building use policies and rental rates. Our goal was to create a more consistent policy and rental rate for use of our facilities by outside groups.

The Green Congregation Initiative was developed by a task force under the leadership of Brian Martin Burkholder. The new Green Congregation Committee will relate to the Administration Commission.

An ad hoc Generosity Team consisting of David Cockley, Heidi Derstine, Jennifer Davis Sensenig and Larry Miller attended the two-day Everence seminar, *Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity*. Ideas initiated by the team included: narrative budget, list of projects for funding beyond budget, a new digital giving portal, Jubilee debt reduction fund, and establishing an endowment plan.

In the coming year we plan to move forward with plans to update the fire protection system in the Dean House and make it fully usable as a facility for a VS unit.

Thanks to all who care for our facilities and manage our financial resources. Thank you to all members for your generosity in supporting Community Mennonite Church with your time, talent and money.

Larry Miller, Chair, Administration Commission

Finance Committee Report

CMC's annual finances over the past year has followed closely the budgeted projections at the beginning of the year. Undesignated contributions showed a projected shortfall of \$12,000-13,000 at the end of November. However, in mid-December the congregation responded to the announcement that an additional 2.7% was needed to meet the contribution target. This budget target of \$439,087 was met, plus an additional \$7,000.

The Everyone Welcome (EW) activity for 2017 can be summarized as follows:

- receipts collected: \$54,099
- expenses, mortgage payments and bank charges: \$13,209
- carryover from renovation: \$1,650
- “Beyond Ourselves” contributions to local ministries: \$35,000
- additional principal mortgage payments: \$59,136

Cash balance in the EW fund at year end: \$7,869

The balance of the mortgage on December 31 is \$ 454,446. (Renovation \$329,586 and Dean House \$124,860)

David Stenson
Finance Co-chair

Grants and Compassion Committee Report

Members: Cindy Lamb, Melissa Rudacille, Richard Stoltzfus, Shannon Sneary Alabanza, Chr.

Compassion Funds: We have approved requests from CMC members and regular attenders for special needs such as emergencies, medical bills, or other unexpected financial needs. As of December 15, 2017, we have approved requests totalling \$3,524.18 for these special needs.

We received money from two Fifth Sunday offerings totalling \$2,603.07. The December 5th Sunday offering will also be earmarked for Compassion Funds.

Higher Educational Matching Grants: Each student who qualifies for this grant receives \$1000.00 per year of enrollment (\$500.00 per semester), which is matched by the institution. For 2017-2018 school year, the student count is as follows: EMU - 9, Goshen College - 4.

Eastern Mennonite School financial assistance: For the current school year, 2017-2018, several students are receiving financial assistance through CMC.

It has been a joy this year to be a part of helping families and individuals with financial needs as well as supporting students pursuing education goals.

Shannon Sneary Alabanza, Chairperson

Rental Manager Report

A Downtown Church with Open Doors

Shopping malls have "anchor stores"; CMC has "anchor renters"! The longest-running is Community Preschool, now a "thirty-something" in age and still making good use of our basement Sunday School wing, playground, and more, 5-days-a-week. It brings a smile to see (and hear) the 40-plus pre-schoolers who make CMC their school "home" for a precious year or two of childhood, as they have fun (and learn) in and around the building. Our other long-term, year-around, every-Wednesday "anchor" is Patchwork Pantry, going strong as a twenty-something and still learning new tricks, helping alleviate food insecurity for 40-50 households a week, on average, and leveraging dozens of volunteers from local churches, JMU, EMU, and more. (Both Preschool and Patchwork were founded and incubated as CMC ministries, though each now has their own, independent boards, albeit with significant ongoing engagement by many CMCers.) Our parking-lot also does not lie idle during the week, providing (income-generating!) spaces for 25-plus Rosetta Stone employees year-round.

While New Bridges Immigrant Center moved down the block on Water St. during our renovation process (after a fruitful, dozen-year residency in our basement, and with substantial ongoing financial support from CMC), a number of other new ministries have taken a place in our building(s) in recent years, including: 1) the Collins Center Congolese Women's Support Group; 2) Indivisible (a progressive, grass-roots advocacy group); 3) The Table (a Mennonite house-church fellowship that meets in the Dean House on Sunday afternoons); 4) a small, Spanish-speaking Adventist church-plant, meeting in our sanctuary on Saturday mornings; 5) Institute for Reform and Solutions and the Valley Justice Coalition (both in the Dean House and both working at local criminal justice reform); 6) COSPU (Hispanic Festival; poultry-workers organizing; Salvadoran and other immigrant advocacy); 7) Campus Kitchen (a JMU student club that re-purposes surplus food and serves it to those who need it); 8) Kids Club (which engages a mix of Patchwork Pantry, CMC, and local neighborhood children with games, crafts, snacks, songs, and a Bible story each Wednesday from 6-7 PM); 9) Skyline Literacy (who regularly hold Citizenship classes for immigrants in the Dean House); 10) Jason Wagner, Virginia Mennonite Conference-commissioned chaplain to our next-door neighbor downtown jail, also uses our Prayer Alcove space as a kind of occasional "office" for his work, and 11) the local Bible Quizzing league (Jason Gerlach and friends) often competes at CMC on Sunday afternoons, as well.

On the arts side of the spectrum, the Valley Community Choir used our sanctuary for fall rehearsals and packed-out Xmas concerts this year, while CMC-connected Ted and Co. and The Walking Roots Band have also used our space for practice and performance. This year has also seen CMC space turned into an art gallery, with regular, rotating displays by local artists gracing our main hallway and Fellowship Hall, in conjunction with "First Fridays"

downtown, but shared also with the hundreds of folks who come through our building each week.

Of course, that doesn't even count the various CMC care teams, committees, commissions, support groups and bible-studies that meet here every week, as part of our life together in Christ, as well as periodic weddings, memorial services, family and small group gatherings, and other special events (even a *quinceanera* this year!), serving both CMCers and others in the community. The relatively new "CMC Seniors" group also gathers here for regular food and fellowship events and of course we have Monthly Gathering, the third Tuesday, most months. While a push to turn the second floor of the Dean House into a 4-person Mennonite Voluntary Service unit is on hold as of this writing--due to zoning and logistical obstacles--this new ministry dream is still being explored and pursued by a CMC task force. A special shout-out to Joyce Lind, Craig Serrels, Sam Miller, Ray Horst, Tom Sawin, Mike Zook, the Lambs mowing service, and the Worship Arts crew who schedule, sustain, and spruce-up the building week-by-week. Finally, a big THANKS to all CMCers for making our space a friendly downtown place for many that reflects the hospitality of Christ to our neighbors. Let me know if you have a new vision for how we can expand our missional presence in H-burg even more in the years ahead.

Kent Davis Sensenig
Rental Manager (and part-time church custodian)

Grounds Committee Report

The grounds committee this year continued to maintain newly installed flower beds as well as existing landscaping throughout the property. The large mature trees in the preschool playground area were assessed by Begoon's Tree Service, and will need some pruning/thinning in the near future. Unfortunately, one of these trees is an ash and will eventually need to be removed due to the emerald ash bore.

We have also been working with the Green Congregation Sunday school class to look at future projects to make our grounds more environmentally friendly. Some of those ideas include solar panels, rain gardens, growing food on church property, etc. We look forward to getting feedback from council and church members to determine what projects folks are passionate about and realistic from a monetary standpoint. We hope to work with the city on some of these projects as well.

A big thanks to those who came out to the fall work day. Volunteers worked hard to clear the northern portion of our parking lot. An entire dump truck of volunteer trees, weeds, debris, etc. was gathered. A special thanks to Sam Miller for organizing that project!

Mike Zook, Chair of Grounds

Community Life Commission Report

Community Life commission consists of committee chairs, including:

- Adult Ed - Kent Sensenig
- Small Group - Heather Harris
- Greeters - Sue Swartz
- Hospitality - Jen Ulrich
- Retreat - Ben and Hannah Bailey
- New Attenders ministry - open
- Prayer partners - Linda Pfamatter
- Pastoral Team representative - Dayna Olson-Getty

Community Life Commission continues to offer many ways for CMC attendees to connect, and to give and receive support. We are learning what it means to live into Christ's call to be faithful as we minister to each other, and to many who live beyond our congregation.

Adult education continues to offer a variety of options. Each quarter at least one scripture focused class is offered, along with classes that range from nurture of self to engaging the world both locally and globally.

Greeters continue to be a welcoming presence in our congregation. This group has tended to be mainly made up of older adults, and we are currently in the process of adding some younger people to this group.

Small Group Committee has been given new life with several initiatives under the leadership of Heather Harris and Adam Yoder. One initiative was to bring together people at retreat who are interested in exploring small group participation. Another is an informal group that meets once a month for a potluck meal at the home of Adam Yoder and Jenni Holsinger. This group meets once a month at their house and is open to anyone. The hope is that this group will become a launching point for other more formal groups.

Hospitality continues to be a vibrant part of our expression of care to each other. Monthly potluck meals, held in Morrison Park over the summer and at church in the winter, as well as the monthly gathering which has similar rhythms, provide places for CMCers to sit and connect with each other. The monthly gathering includes a taco bar meal and programming for Venture Club, Jr. MYF, MYF, and adults. Childcare is offered for younger children as well. In the past year, Hospitality has provided the meal (from Costco and A Bowl of Good) for congregational meetings. This shift has been met with many positive comments, so we have budgeted for two such meals in the coming year.

CMC's church retreat was held at Camp Brethren Woods this year. We invited Isaac Villegas to speak on themes related to engaging and breaking down power structures that marginalize. Breakout sessions provided further conversation with Isaac, as well as a wide variety of informal games, music, poetry, hiking and fellowship. Other highlights included a moth story hour around a campfire with s'mores which was held Friday night, and a variety show Saturday night.

Challenges remain, but we look to a new year with hope.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Good

Hospitality Committee Report

Members: Jennifer Ulrich & Joan Kauffman - co-chair, Shelby Hertzler, Wilma Miller, Kathy Yoder, Rosemary Good

Hospitality Committee provides drinks during the fellowship time. From September to June we serve hot drinks, coffee and tea. In the summer we serve lemonade and iced tea. The committee supervises the setup and clean up of potluck the first Sunday of each month. The 7th and 8th grade Sunday School classes help with setup most times. We have moved to using the Corelle plates in order to cut down on the paper we throw away. This year there were three congregational meetings, two to discuss CMC's relationship with VMC and the regular one in December. We have found providing food for these meeting is better than asking the congregation to bring in food. We primarily get food from Costco and supplement with some vegetarian and gluten free items from A Bowl of Good. We have asked for funds to purchase glass cups so we don't have to purchase paper. A pre-rinse faucet was recently installed, which will help with washing dishes during potluck.

Jennifer Ulrich

Small Group Committee Report

This year the small group committee met on a quarterly basis for on-going discussion of ways to support the twenty existing small groups in our congregation, as well as to help facilitate the connection of interested church attenders/members to new small groups. Acknowledging that the placement process into a small group can be lengthy, an idea emerged to create "Open Circle", a small group that will meet at the church the second Saturday evening of each month. This small group is open to anyone, especially those new to our church or those seeking to explore the idea of a small group. The hope is that this will create a space to allow for quick connection/support, and that new small groups might organically form out of these monthly gatherings. As new groups emerge, the commission is working to develop resources to help those groups become meaningful spaces for individuals to process gifts discernment, etc.

Heather Harris

Greeters Committee Report

Welcomers greet members and attenders as they enter the north hallway and the fellowship hall each Sunday morning. For 2017, this group included Rebeca Barge, Aliese Gingerich, Wilma Gingerich, Ken and MarthaJune Graber, Nancy Heisey, Hadley and Jan Jenner, Sharon Miller, Keaton Shenk, Dave Smucker and Sue Swartz. Welcomers love to exhibit hospitality with words and handshakes, and bring smiles to the faces of those they meet. We think we are offering this gift of service to others, but we are the ones truly blessed.

Sue Swartz

Prayer Partners Committee

On Sunday mornings a Prayer Partner continues to offer a time of prayer for individuals at the Prayer Alcove. We have added a few members to our team of members.

A few more changes to the Prayer Alcove were welcomed, which included paint and wall base-board. A table and chairs for use by worship commission and other committees were added in this space.

Linda Pfamatter

Adult Christian Education Committee

The last twelve months of Adult Education offerings at CMC remind me once again of the rich (human) resources we have to draw upon in our congregation. Our committee (myself, Reta Halteman Finger, Mike Brislen, Jenni Holsinger, Dorothy Jean Weaver, and pastoral liaison, Dayna Olson-Getty) had the privilege of calling out and harnessing some of the intellectual and spiritual energies represented in our bunch. We kicked the year off with a bang, with a winter quarter line-up featuring Reta Finger's sampling of the synoptic Gospels, aptly titled "Three Stories: One Jesus." I had the privilege of facilitating another class--"Faith and Science Narratives"--where we listened in on more than a dozen CMC scientists-by-vocation as they insightfully reflected on their fields and their faith. This quarter was topped off by CMC's very first (but hopefully not last) yoga class, skillfully led by Lisen Reichenbach, off-campus at the Ice House studio.

Spring quarter continued the roll with Gloria Rhodes and Jennifer Davis Sensenig's well-received "Women Who Made (Biblical) History," which enjoyed a 7-week reprise in the fall. A timely theme for the Age of Trump was engaged by Carolyn Yoder and Art Stoltzfus, who led a large group in learning "Nonviolent Strategies and Tools for Turbulent Times" in the sanctuary, while upstairs Lucy Malenke and Anna Maria Johnson provided a change of pace with their invigorating workshop on "Contemplative Writing." In the fall, newer CMCer, Tim Seidel, brought his experience and expertise in the Middle East to a class on "Israel-Palestine: seeking peace with justice," with a special focus on the recent Mennonite Church USA resolution on that issue, while upstairs (former-beloved-pastor-turned-to-the-roost) Jane Hooper Peifer helped many of us deepen our practice of spiritual disciplines. Meanwhile, over in the Dean House, CMC's "Green" committee (ably convened by Brian Martin Burkholder and Wayne Teel) picked up one of our vision initiatives, rolled up their sleeves, and pointed us on a path towards greater ecological sustainability and stewardship as a church, while Matthew Carlson and friends watched and discussed movies with spiritual themes. As a new year comes around again, we are currently enjoying Andrea Saner's evocations of the "Old Testament Imagination" and look forward to a class featuring life-stories shared by young(ish) adults in our community.

We are always looking for your ideas and teaching/facilitating gifts, so don't think twice about coming to one of us with a potential theme or teacher for our consideration. As a committee we continue to seek the best balance we can, as far as number and type and style and location of classes, and the broadest representation of teachers and attenders possible, so everyone feels they have a seat in the circle if they want it.

Peace in Christ, Kent Davis Sensenig (chair)

Outreach Commission

The Outreach Commission oversees CMC's work both locally and globally, and consists of six at-large members of varying terms with Jason Gerlach as the Pastoral Team representative. Additionally, many representatives to local organizations in the community periodically report by invitation to the Outreach Commission. The members of the Outreach Commission currently serving are: Ben Wyse and Hadley Jenner, Chair, (terms ending in 2017), Aliese Gingerich and Sara Kiser (terms ending 2018), Keith Gnagey (term ending 2019), Nelly Moreno Shenk (term ending 2020). Dennis Showalter is the incoming Chair (term ending in 2020), with Hadley becoming the new Vice-Chair through the middle of 2018. Tim Seidel is coming in to replace Ben (term ending 2020).

Earlier this year, Outreach pared the list of organizations under the Outreach "umbrella" from 17 to 9. Those nine are: Community Preschool, Patchwork Pantry, Mennonite Disaster Service, Everence, Virginia Relief Sale, Open Doors, Bridge of Hope, Faith in Action, and Highland Retreat. Given the outgoing term of Ruth & Tim Jost serving as the Everence Liaison (term ending 2017), consideration is currently being given to finding a replacement. This is significant because part of CMC's income stream is the match we receive from Everence (for every \$1 spent on qualifying contributions, we receive \$0.50 from Everence). For the past 3 years this has amounted to \$3000.

The Outreach Commission 2018 budget of \$63,135 is 12.9% of the total CMC budget of \$490,768. However, of this Outreach budget about 61% is dedicated to various Mennonite institutions based on current membership (e.g. Mennonite Church, USA; Virginia Mennonite Conference; Virginia Mennonite Missions; Harrisonburg District and Inter Anabaptist Partnerships such as Mennonite Central Committee). The other nearly 39% is our Local and Global Ministries portion of the budget that is more directly under our control. In terms of trends, while our giving to the various Mennonite institutions above has been fairly flat over the last six years, our Local and Global Ministries has grown from \$20,635 in 2013 to \$24,500 in 2018, a growth of over 18% in that period.

Highlights

- Slow progress on preparing Dean House for a possible VS Unit on the second floor. At year's end, cost figures are finally available and Council will consider whether to proceed with this Vision in the coming year,
- Prioritized the Local & Global Ministries portion of the Outreach 2018 budget into two tiers; Tier I for basic human needs (e.g. health care, shelter) and Tier II for less pressing needs. Set a goal of expanding Local & Global Ministries to 15% of the total budget in the coming years,
- Established new line item funding for Jail Ministry, Collins Center and Mercy House,
- Some of the Vision fund which Outreach set aside for funding Vision Work was utilized for support of the Kids' Club,

- Provided support for Jason Wagner of VMM doing jail ministry locally and for Jay & Sherri Hartzler in their Romania mission work,
- Provided support for Maarten McDonald doing Service Adventure VS in Anchorage, Alaska and for Carly Kraybill, who is extending her VS term for another year in Washington, DC,
- Everyone Welcome Mission Project – Council unanimously approved Outreach’s recommendation earlier in the year that NewBridges Immigrant Resource Center be given \$25,000 to hire a new case worker given our current political climate regarding immigrants, and that the remaining \$10,000 be distributed to COSPU, Vine and Fig, and Scholars Latino Initiative,
- Hosting of Jonathan Kuttub (Palestinian Mennonite) and Voices for Peace (an Israeli peace group) together with Park View Mennonite Church,

Outreach Commission hear various reports;

- on the Colombia peace process from Andrea Moya,
- Bridge of Hope from Shirley Showalter
- Mennonite Disaster Service from Sam Miller

We anticipate hearing more about DACA & Sanctuary issues at our December meeting.

Generally, we have monthly meetings. If you have any concern or issue you want us to address, feel free to talk to anyone on the Outreach Commission or seek out Dennis or me.

Thank you for letting me serve as Chair these past three years.

Hadley Jenner, Outreach Commission Chair

Everence Representative

Timothy and Ruth Stoltzfus Jost served as Community Mennonite's Everence Representatives again this year. CMC received \$3000 in Everence Sharing Grants, of which \$900 was given to New Bridges; \$1000 to Our Community Place, \$600 to Open Doors, \$250 to Bridge of Hope, and \$250 to the Harrisonburg Free Clinic. These funds matched equal contributions from CMC. Timothy attended Everence training events, referred individuals to Everence for services, distributed Toolkit, and placed announcements of Everence events and services in the CMC newsweekly. A number of CMC members attended Everence seminars on various topics.

Timothy Jost

Worship Commission

Worship Commission continues to serve the church's Sunday morning worship and gathering needs. We started 2017 with the "Journey with Jesus" series that spanned the weeks from Epiphany Sunday to Transfiguration Sunday, then moved into the Lenten series with a meaningful Ash Wednesday service. The "Restore us, O God!" Lenten series involved numerous profound worship rituals, including anointing, a water ritual, Lord's Supper, and writing anxieties on paper and then transforming them into doves of peace through the art of origami. The Living Generously stewardship series then followed Easter, and took us to the beginning of summer.

During Pastor Jennifer's sabbatical, the Living Peacefully series involved sharing from guest musicians, dramatists, speakers, and former CMCers. In July, our Love is a Verb series continued the worship that began in Orlando with the MCUSA convention of the same name. The Gifts of the Spirit series was followed by two months of stories of the First Families, which provided an opportunity for our congregation to become reacquainted with and wrestle with the humanity of characters and family systems depicted in Genesis. We prepared for the celebration of Christmas with the Advent series and the injunction that we "Let it be."

Throughout the year we were blessed with celebrations of baby dedications, baptisms, and receiving new members. We also grieved injustices in our local communities, national context, and global village, and we mourned losses felt deeply in our church community. We recognized expressions of joy, pain, laughter, and sorrow as sacred and important to our worshipping lives together, and we felt the Spirit move in our worship.

Worship Commission's work continues to be faithfully carried out by Worship Arts Committee, the Ushers, the Sound crew, worship leaders, song leaders, pastors, scripture readers, children's time facilitators, and all who gather to worship together each week. In addition, we were excited to add the newly formed Arts Council to our ranks. This group has already served CMC's vision for arts involvement well, by creating gallery space and opening to the community for First Friday events. We look forward to more good work in 2018!

Greg Yoder and Brendon Derstine, co-chairs

Ushers Committee

The ushers serving this year have been Alden Hostetter, Dan Beachy, Dorothy Jean Weaver, Greg Koop, Jennifer North Bauman, Jim Bishop, Matt Gingerich, Matt Ruth, Matt Waidelich, Randy Reichenbach, Ruth Jost, and Tim Jost. Having twelve ushers this year made it less of an issue covering the schedule and finding subs. The greater amount of time, though, between assignments was somewhat of a challenge for the head usher, especially for first-year ushers. Ushers were scheduled to usher every third week and have head usher duties every twelve weeks.

The re-keying of the building in last year's renovations has been a big plus for the head usher by only needing one key for unlocking and locking. Monitoring the HVAC from a central point was also a result of the renovations. But currently, the ushers are monitoring the temperatures on each thermostat while a glitch in the centralized system is being addressed.

We continue to use the online CMC Worship Calendar for maintaining the usher schedule. All of the ushers did a great job of fulfilling their responsibilities and finding subs for times they couldn't.

Dan Beachy, Usher Coordinator

Sound System Volunteers

The CMC sound team consists of eight members. We have run sound for all worship services and many special events in the sanctuary and fellowship hall. Our team is getting used to the new sound system and are currently working on improving the hearing assist equipment. The personnel are stable for the coming year.

Wayne Gehman, Chair

Youth Commission

Sunday School

During 2017, approximately 130 children and youth were under CMC's care and nurture (nursery through MYF). Around 25 adults have been involved in the primary grades Sunday School program, from singing music during the first 15 minutes of the Sunday School hour, to teaching and assisting. A Gathering Time for grades 2-6 (Winter/Spring) and grades 1-6 (Fall) included knotting a comforter for MCC, preparing short dramatic readings, singing and playing choir chimes, and participating in community building games. (The choir chimes continue to be borrowed from Big Spring Mennonite Church (Luray).) The Shine curriculum (Menno Media) continues to be used for instruction. Church recess also continues each Sunday, providing important physical release for preschoolers through grade 5 at the end of the church service.

Monica Carlson, Superintendent

Nursery

Tiffany Showalter is currently leading the nursery committee with help from Shannon Roth. Tiffany created a binder that includes a page of information for each child, in order to help the volunteers get to know the children better. Merridy Gnagey volunteered to re-supply the Quiet Activity bags for children ages 3-5. The basement infant nursery continues to be a quiet space for nursing mothers or sleeping infants. Going into 2018 there are nine Safe Church certified volunteers and two under-18 volunteers. Tiffany will be looking for additional volunteers beginning next quarter.

Tiffany Showalter

Junior MYF

We had another big bunch of middle-school-age children at CMC this past year (6th-8th), nearly twenty; lots of energy, indeed! We generally have 10-15 youth turn out to any given event, which is a stimulating size, and we tend to get a decent balance of girls to boys. Our regular rhythm is to meet together in the friendly confines of the Dean House during the second hour of the congregation-wide monthly gathering (third Tuesday evening). Activities during this hour include board-game nights; bible trivia contests; scavenger hunts downtown; get-to-know-you mixers; White Elephant gift-exchanges at Christmas; and the like. The main idea is to be together and have fun. We often start with a go-around-the-circle question or two, as a way to check in with each person about what is going on in their life. Most months we also try to have an additional outing of some kind, including movie-night (in the MYF room); ice-skating down at Bridgewater; hikes in the great outdoors after church, etc. This year a dozen kids were able to attend a broader middle-schooler over-night retreat up at Highland Camp, which included 60-70

other kids from 6 or 7 other local Mennonite churches. The weekend featured times of worship, teaching, food, and many group games. We also end each year with an overnight camp-out (also at Highland) in May, with just our group. And who can forget prepping the burgers, "dogs", and french-fries for one of the food-shack fund-raisers our church sponsors each year at the MCC Relief sale?! Grease and teens is a wonderful combo... Our main challenge (as with many church ministries) is recruiting enough adult sponsors each year. This year (and ongoing) we are especially in need of a female sponsor (or two), but myself, Harold Shenk, and Kendal Bauman hold up the male end of the spectrum as best as we're able. Whatever your gender, if you are looking to stay young and get to know some great, growing people, consider joining the Junior MYF team next year!

Peace in Christ,
Kent Davis Sensenig

Senior MYF

The events listed below only give a glimpse into youth group life, and its many activities.

Since our last report, three seniors have graduated, and we've welcomed the following freshmen: Atticus Nafziger, Sophie Howard, Jalyn Sneary, Arwen Hertzler, Magdalena Johnson, Anna Tieszen, Sophie Shank Zehr, Elsa Waidelich, Aaron Smucker, Hans McDonald, Rebekah Copeland, Luke Huyard, and Isabella Madrid.

After years of great service, Joe Yoder decided to release his role as sponsor, so in his absence we've added Jonathan Augsburg and Taylor Hodges. Throughout the year, youth group sponsors have deeply enriched the experience of weekend and week-long trips, as well as weekly activities.

Throughout much of 2017 Jason Gerlach taught the MYF Sunday school class, focusing on theological questions, challenging Biblical stories, and sharing research from his sabbatical study on the criminal justice system. This winter, Reta Finger began teaching the youth group with a goal of helping them understand different theories of Biblical interpretation and how those interpretations affect what we believe about current issues. At the midpoint of the quarter Reta will share her observations about how to articulate a progressive stance on welcoming LGBTQ from a Biblical perspective.

The Senior High MYF spent the third weekend of January at Highland Retreat for our annual Snow Camp weekend. Throughout the weekend, Leah Wenger led sessions in which she shared her personal story of spiritual growth, amidst a deeper understanding of how her gifts have aided her spiritual growth.

Since September, the youth group meets regularly on Wednesday evenings, and maintains a rotation of input sessions, local service events, and fun activities. The variety of activities has been greatly appreciated. The youth group recently moved from the Dean House to Room 202 in the main building; the move provided more adequate space for the larger group as well as lots of natural light and a climate controlled setting.

The youth group has participated in Community Mennonite Church's "Monthly Gathering," and has been thankful for the opportunity to eat supper with the whole congregation as well as meet as a group during the second hour.

This year CMC graduated three seniors. Those seniors were recognized during the second hour of a Monthly Gathering, and they each had an opportunity to present a little about their lives during this event.

In sum, we have grown closer as a group and closer to our Lord, Jesus Christ. We have been blessed with the opportunity to meet, with an adequate meeting room, capable leadership in sponsors, and the sense of a strong blessing from the entire congregation. Thus, we thank all of you who are praying for each member of the youth group, as well as for your financial support and kind words of encouragement to each member of the 2017 youth group.

Jason Gerlach, Mariah Martin, Jonathan Augsburg, Abi Shank Zehr, and Taylor Hodges

Mentor Coordinator

Five new mentees now have mentors in 2017, although there are still two 6th grade graduates in need of mentors. Two older mentees lost their mentors when they relocated, and new mentors have not yet been matched. The mentor pairs are listed on a Google account, and this data will be passed on to the new coordinator.

Tom Sawin is stepping down from his role as mentor coordinator, and Youth Commission is currently in search of a new Mentor Coordinator.

No parties for mentors and mentees were organized during the spring or fall, but is hoped that the new mentor coordinator can provide leadership for that.

Tom Sawin, Mentor Coordinator

Child Protection Committee

In Aug/Sept 2017, we set aside three Sundays to teach from the *Circle of Grace* and *Our Whole Lives* curricula. The classes were well attended and appreciated. Over the past two years there have been many who have taken the necessary steps to become Approved Adults at CMC. All total, there are 92 adults who are Approved Adults. Throughout the year, we've needed to encourage a few adults fulfilling roles in the church in which they work with children to become Approved Adults, and those individuals are still working toward completing the required steps.

Additionally, we've taken steps toward full compliance in the following ways: CMC Kids' Club meets during the time that Patchwork Pantry is in operation and thus Kids' Club provides a Safe Church approved program for children. We also line up childcare providers (for Monthly Gathering, Congregational Meeting, weekly Bible studies) who have become approved adults.

Within the past two years, the Child Protective Committee has worked with a few situations in which there was a need for education within the congregation regarding child sexual abuse, as well as finding Approved Adults to fulfill the roles of supervisors and covenant partners for persons connected to our congregation. At the beginning of 2018, the work of the Committee will focus on helping the remaining renters (congregations/organizations) who use space at CMC to fully comply with the Safe Church Policy.

Jason Gerlach, Marsha Thomas and Joyce Peachey Lind