

According to the University Mennonite Church Congregational Ministries Position Descriptions, our committee has the following name and description:

**The Adult Sunday School Committee:** Coordinates the adult Sunday School options; appoints teachers and directs the program.

### **The Shifting UMC Context**

This title and description worked well when we were meeting 100% in person (remember those days?). When our services were 100% Zoom, we were also able to plan and implement some programming with all of the participants on a common ground.

Like many other programs and activities of UMC, over the past year, Adult Education has been affected by the pandemic and by other changes within our congregation. As we moved toward implementing hybrid worship (which is going very well in my view), our context for planning and implementing Adult SS programming has shifted and become very difficult. For example, meeting on Zoom or for shorter periods with restrictions in person has prevented consideration of Adult SS programming during the traditional 1100 to 1145/1200 slot on Sunday mornings.

At the same time, we are seeing energy within the congregation for implementing Adult Education types of activities outside of the Sunday morning context. This began in our (September to August) 2020-2021 year and has continued into the 2021-2022 year. As examples, the Anti-Racism group continues to meet; we completed an Anabaptism study; and most recently, we studied the MCUSA Abolition Curriculum, starting in January 2022.

We note that there have been some similar dynamics with programming and activities for education for children and youth and the related committee has taken on the more general name of the "Children and Youth Program Committee".

Based on our experience over the past year and in search of a bright future for Adult Education at UMC, the 2021-2022 UMC Adult SS Committee would like to propose that for 2022-2023, the name and function of the committee be transformed as follows:

**Name: The UMC Adult Education Committee**

**Description:** Coordinates UMC adult education options. Where applicable, the committee appoints teachers and directs the program, including on Sunday Mornings at the same time as the Children's Education programming. The committee also encourages and blesses initiatives by UMC members and participants for various types and forms of adult education at various times during the week.

Cathy, you may consider this to be the 2021-2022 UMC Adult SS Committee report for the upcoming UMC Congregational Meeting.

Best Regards,  
Ken Litwiller for the 2021-2022 UMC Adult SS Committee