

## Congregational Chair Report

November 2023

The leadership team (LT) has met twice since the beginning of our new church year in September. The group includes Joel Weidner (chair) Tim Groff (asst. chair), Kate Heinzl, Jim Rosenberger (treasurer) and elders Doug Yoder, Doug Miller, and Faith King. We usually meet via Zoom on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday evening of odd numbered months.

A major discussion and action item this fall was pulling together the visioning team which has since met once. Kate and Doug Yoder are representing the LT on the visioning group.

Other items discussed included:

- **Consideration of how UMC is seen by others**, outside our congregation, who use our building or check us out (bulletin board, signage, website). Work is ongoing and involves the meetinghouse committee and others.
- **Fellowship Coffee time** – We asked the fellowship committee to experiment with coffee time downstairs. After the experiment we decided that for most Sundays, coffee time will be in the fellowship hall. Occasionally on Sundays with a full worship agenda and adult education hours, we will ask the committee to prepare coffee upstairs in the foyer.
- **Second Phase of Building Energy Plan** – will be discussed in more depth during the congregational meeting.
- **Building Chair Lift** – Ensuring we have enough folks willing and ready to help those who need to use the lift.
- **Accessibility Audit** – Mary Derstein has volunteered to help review our physical building facilities, using a Congregational Assessment Survey Form provided by the Anabaptist Disabilities Network. The survey is extensive and includes categories for Mobility, Hearing, Sign Language, Vision, and Support. The work is ongoing and the results, along with possible action items for correction, will be shared with the congregation once we've completed the assessment.
- **Possible building use by Acoustic Brew Concert series** – The Acoustic Brew organization is interested in using our sanctuary for concerts. The LT has approved this use of the building and the first concert is tentatively planned for January 6.
- **Development of congregation meeting agenda and schedule** – We'll plan to hold congregational meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of November, February, May, and August. We'll experiment with the time and format of meetings to see what works best.

Feel free to reach out to members of LT team with questions and concerns. The entire team can be emailed by using [leadershipteam@universitymennonite.org](mailto:leadershipteam@universitymennonite.org)

Joel Weidner  
Congregational chair