



# CLT COMMUNICATOR



● = Ministry Report; † = Congregational Leadership Team Minutes

January 19, 2026

**Present:** Glenn Nofziger II, Michael Amstutz, Michelle Steffen, Chip Coleman, Barb Ressler, Ed Taylor, Lisa Amstutz, Ken Neuenschwander, Trent Metcalf and Conrad Neuenschwander.

**Opening:** Trent led a MLK day devotional from Isaiah 41:10 about loving those who hate us. Trent referenced Dr. Byron's lessons about the Israelites exiled in Babylon as well as the story of the Woman at the Well to demonstrate how we are to interact with and assimilate with the Other as we live out God's love in our lives. Glenn prayed us in.

## **Pastor's Report—Glenn Nofziger II**

- We had a wonderful Thanksgiving service thanks to Anna Ressler's writing and coming and leading along with the rest of the Ressler family providing wonderful song leading!
- We had our first Longest Night service thanks to Henry Beun giving leadership to that. There was a good turnout of community members as well. And there were many comments of appreciation for an opportunity to name and lament struggles and grief in the midst of the holiday season.
- Be Amazed was our theme for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Many thanks to everyone who participated in worship for those services including all the song and worship leaders, the youth who led the Children's Stories, our sound and multimedia crew as well as decorating and providing visual arts. And everyone seems to really appreciate the extra fellowship time with the breakfasts and Alternative Christmas. Thank you Outreach and Service!
- Christmas Eve was also special with singing and candle lighting with extra family.
- Welcome 2026, It's a new year! There seems to be a lot going on and things to look forward to.
- Dr. John Byron coming for Adult Enrichment Weekend, Jan 16-18. Thank you Adult Ministry!
- Sunday, January 25 will be Anabaptist World Fellowship with Communion.
- Plans keep moving along with those working on the Columbarium as well as the team discerning our church spaces as we hope to finish the rest of the carpet project.
- Winter Wednesdays are gearing up with Pastoral Team sessions focused on our new Purpose Statement of Following Jesus Together.
- I am enjoying my involvement with helping Erin coach Bible Quiz and participate in Venture Club planning and activities.
- I continue to serve on Ohio Mennonite Conference Leadership Council as I serve as the Chair to the conference Gifts Discernment Committee.
- I meet with my Spiritual Director once per month.
- I am planning to help fly my Mom to Florida January 29-February 1. Looking forward to hopefully a couple days of warm sun and sand in Sarasota!
- I really appreciate working with our PCR(Pastor Congregation Relations) team as we look towards my 3(4) Year Review coming up this August/September.
- Looking forward to some vacation time this Summer and hoping to experience Sabbatical the Summer of 2027. Please pray for me and the formation of those plans!
- † Glenn is energized by the conversations around everyone participating in various Bible reading plans. He feels it is the best way to get a Biblical overview of how the Bible works. One key is that the story is more about who God is rather than what does the Bible have for us as individuals.

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- + Glenn really appreciated the weekend with John Byron.
  - + Glenn highlighted Communion and Anabaptist Sunday which are coming up on Sunday January 25.
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#### **Pastoral Team—Jeremy Patterson, Leader; Lisa Amstutz, Secretary**

- Pastoral Team met December 1, 2025 at Lisa's house. Michelle shared a devotion on the rich young ruler. It's hard to let go of what you have when you're not quite sure what "more" is. Jesus invites us to follow him even when we can't see the next step.
  - Glenn and a few others have been reading through the Bible Recap, and we would like to encourage the church to work through this plan as a group in the coming year.
  - We discussed the Thanksgiving service and options for next year as well as Winter Wednesdays.
  - We will be updating the mission/vision page for the directory. We also discussed the purpose of and process for the Mutual Caring Fund.
  - Pastoral Team met January 5, 2026. Barb shared a reflection from Philemon 1:7. When we encounter people, do we leave them refreshed or rebuffed? Do we lift people up, or bring them down?
  - Glenn shared about the upcoming preaching schedule and adult enrichment weekend as well an update on the Bible Recap plan. A few pastoral care items were discussed.
  - We spent some time planning for Winter Wednesdays and updating the purpose statement page in the directory. We revisited the question of church staffing needs and will continue to discuss next month.
  - Affirmation of Priscilla's ministry at Danbury was shared.
  - + Michelle mentioned for us to be in prayer the Pastoral Team nights over the first 2 gatherings of Winter Wednesdays as we explore our purpose and plan in Following Jesus Together.
  - + PT plans to come to CLT with a job description for a second staff position.
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#### **Adult Ministry—Alice & Trent Metcalf Co-Ministry Leaders**

- We did a final review of Winter Wednesdays and the Enrichment weekend. Signup sheets are to be posted and announcements shared for the bulletin etc.
  - Winter Wednesday schedule  
January 21: PT. \*Meal – Mim L ( Rhoda) Haystack. Walnut Creek ice cream  
February 4: PT. \*Meal ?  
February 18: AED revisited and ?. \*meal  
March 4: Martin Luther file ( Greg S?). \*meal ?  
March 18: Pinewood. Pizza
  - + Nothing added
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#### **Children's & Youth/Young Adult Ministry—Michael Amstutz Ministry Leader**

- **Youth/Young Adults:** In December we sent a formal proposal to Pastoral Team to begin the process of hiring a part time staff person - Children/Youth, Faith Development, or Family Life. Finalized mentoring plans for January 14th (bowling). Also began putting names together to ask for sponsors this fall.
  - **Children:** Finalizing the VBS committee for this summer. Discussed covering activities for children during Winter Wednesdays.
  - + Michael highlighted the mentor night, they had a wonderful turnout there.
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#### **Facilities Ministry—Marlin Troyer Ministry Leader**

- No report.
- + No report.



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## Gifts Discernment Ministry—Conrad Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- No report. Plan to meet Wednesday January 28.
  - + Gifts is working on a survey for the congregation.
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## Outreach & Service Ministry—Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

### **December 2025 minutes**

- Opening – Vince: Romans 8: 38-39 With all the turmoil and sad stuff going on, what we do as a ministry as well as individuals, do should convey the love of God that is in Christ Jesus, not separate.
- Moment for Mission – Jan. 4: Bolivia projector project thank you videos - c/o, Jan. 11: Camp Luz – Next Generation project – c/o Andrew Micael.  
Love INC: Janet & Rhoda are doing a great job communicating through emails. We need to make sure viable information gets passed to the congregation.
- Bolivia projector: Angela Z. received some thank you videos from the church in Bolivia we want to show to the congregation.
- Oyanguren/Sayatan: Working with Jose & Alfonsina to determine the next project we will fund with the money we have designated.
- Austin and Griselda Zuercher We will use their support request video for a MFM, probably Feb. 1 st .
- Alternative Christmas: will be Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, & 21. The first Sunday went well. We've had some suggestions that we suspend SS over the Alternative Christmas Sundays. Suggested that we try it the last Sunday Dec. 21 this year. Checking with CLT.
- Maple Syrup Festival Date: Our first choice is April 25 th . April 18 is possible? Checking with main characters – Dave, Steve, Michele & Jeremey, Todd, Chip and CLT. MSF: We decided to purchase two fryers from Prairie Welding in Mississippi for \$2400 ea. SMW offered to purchase one and Conrad offered to purchase one. (they have been ordered).
- MMN Latin America Rep.: We are working to get him to SMC ASAP.
- Financial O&S Fundraiser account Bal 11/30/2025 - \$12,125.50, Restricted - \$9,949.12 Unrestricted Bal. -\$2,176.38, Restrictions: Haiti special fund - \$4,598.62, My Coins Count - \$480.50, PTP food drive \$870, Oyanguren Projects - \$2,000, Jubilee Orphanage - \$1,000, Love INC - \$1,000 Distributed this month \$22,300

### **Jan 2026 minutes**

- Opening – Glenn John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” We need to see Jesus to follow Jesus and must walk in his light to see Jesus. Glenn likes the thought of shepherding the congregation but also recognizing the needs and challenges of outreach and service. He acknowledged O&S role in the congregation and encouraged us to continue our work, commenting on many of our activities.
- Moment for Mission – Jan. 4: Bolivia projector project thank you videos - c/o, Jan. 11: Camp Luz – Next Generation project – c/o Andrew Michaels, Feb. 1: Austin & Griselda video, Mar. 1: MCC work night March 25th, Apr. 5: Maple Syrup Festival.
- Lighthouse Banquet – Thursday April 23rd at Hartville Kitchen
- Oyanguren/Sayatan: In discussion with Jose & Alfonsina we decided on two projects we want to support with the \$2,000 we had designated. We wanted a portion to go to the Oyanguren family as well as a project at Sayatan. The family needs help with Jaun's rent at college this next semester, \$2,500, and they would like to build a wall around

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the new land we helped purchase last year, \$3,000. We decided to send \$4,250 that included some personal gifts.

We invite the congregation to replenish our fund.

- Austin and Griselda Zuercher, Will be coming to the US this summer and will be visiting SMC.
- Alternative Christmas: Overall, it went very well; people seem to really enjoy this time of fellowship together and the money raised is increasing each year. This year \$7,322 was raised.
- Haiti Community Schools: Myriam was able to find a way to get money to the schools in Haiti. We sent the \$1,000 we had designated plus \$4,500 from the special Haiti fund.
- Maple Syrup Festival: Date is April 25th.
- MCF: Two Fryers were ordered mid-December. There was \$250 given for accessories we will need to set up another fryer set up.
- MMN Latin America Rep. Juan Pacheco Lozano: We are working to get him to SMC ASAP.
- Financial O&S Fundraiser account Bal 12/31/2025 - \$21,908.50, Restricted - \$17,154.62, Unrestricted Bal. - \$4,753.62, Restrictions: Haiti special fund - \$5,098.62, My Coins Count - \$604.00, PTP food drive \$870, Oyanguren Projects - \$2,000, Open Arms - \$1,000.00, Lighthouse - \$260.00, MCC Alt. Christmas -7,322.00: Distributed this month \$5,500
- ✦ Ken mentioned Oyanguren funds will be sent with Joanna on her trip. Some will help Juan with school and some will go towards a wall project around the new property boundary to keep cars from the intersection coming through.
- ✦ Alternative Christmas went very well. It was another record year for funds raised towards MCC projects.
- ✦ The Maple Syrup for Missions Festival will be held on April 25 this year.

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### **Worship Ministry-Henry Beun, Ministry Leader**

#### **December 2025 minutes**

- Henry opened with devotions and shared the song Come You Unfaithful.
- Preaching schedule is good through March.
- We discussed the significance of the oil lamp, praying for peace. Glenn has sometimes lit it and highlighted the annual scripture theme that Jesus is the light of the world. How do we use it for advent? We would like to keep it lit and state this in the bulletin going forward at the end of the worship outline. The oil lamp at the front of the church is a Peace lamp. As followers of Jesus we embrace Christ's way of peace.
- Thanksgiving service, should we have it Wednesday evening or Thursday. Glenn will ask for thoughts from CLT. Glenn is representing Worship Ministry at CLT.
- We discussed those willing to take on new roles or needing a break
- January 25 will be the Sunday we will focus on Anabaptist World Fellowship.
- We discussed the possibilities of following The Story or The Bible Recap as a church.

#### **Jan 2026 minutes**

- Looked over the preaching schedule through May. Henry offered to fill an open slot if needed. Started discussing ideas for summer services. Should we have outdoor services or not? Meet outdoors every other week or once a month? Go back to meeting only once during the summer for a church picnic? Some choose not to attend at all when we have services outside and others really enjoy worshipping outside. Will bring it to CLT for discussion and final decision.
- Spent some time evaluating the Longest Night service. Should it be a yearly event? Discussed keeping it on the Sunday before Christmas depending on when Christmas falls. Had a lot of positive feedback on the service. Had others from the community in attendance.
- Evaluated the Advent and Christmas services. It was a good experience to involve the youth in the children's time. Will try to be better organized next time. Positive feedback given on changing the order of service during Advent and keeping the announcements short to give more time for other elements of the service. Had some discussion on how to do this going forward, so that announcements don't take so much time away from worship.
- Our ministry is continuing to work at exploring ways to encourage youth and others to give song-leading a try.



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- Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday is January 25. Will plan to have communion.
- Began talking about planning for Lent which starts next month! Will be using the Leader Resource and the theme is "Dwelling in Dissonance." Would like to get together a readers theater group and someone to help lead children's time. Will start making some contacts for these.
- + Glenn talked about a lot of great feedback surrounding special holiday services. They were meaningful.
- + Senior Sunday will be May 17.
- + CLT talked about new tweaks on decisions for outside Summer services so that there may not be so many weeks that excluded those who can't participate outdoors. CLT discussed pros and cons to moving to once a week during Summer or only one month or even a simulcast so folks who want could watch inside.

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## Treasurer's Report—Ed Taylor, Treasurer

- Budget: We have completed the fourth month of the 2025-2026 fiscal year, 33.33% of the budget. Budget giving is at 31.7% of budget and 32.8% including designated income. Expenses are at 27.5% of budget. Weekly budget giving needs to average \$4,990. Salaries are inflated by around \$5,000 for December because Quickbooks decided that it was a good idea to make the payroll payments date for the 31st and make the deposit into the employee's accounts on January 2nd. They give no way for me to change any of those dates which also throws my checking account balance off by that amount for December.
- CCS Tuition: We continue to maintain a balance cushion in the upper \$20k in the account. Tuition for the 2025/2026 school year is \$34,806 or \$2,900 per month plus an additional \$6 for the first payment. We added an additional monthly gift of \$1,433.00 for a total of \$4,333. The total tuition and additional giving for the 2025-2026 school year is \$52,000. The December 31st balance in the account is \$31,368.29.
- + Ed met with Darius Meraj at Everence about the church's investment funds. He suggested we stay with similar funds and that other churches and organizations similar to us are invested in a very comparable mix of funds.

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## Action Items:

- + **Columbarium Update** - Michele Steffen shared an update with pictures, descriptions and figures concerning the structure of the columbarium types the committee are exploring. CLT discussed the positives and negatives. CLT voted towards a proposal of a plan that allows for a more flexible and unique design over a columbarium that uses more traditional materials but is considerably more expensive.

**Next Meetings:** February 16 & March 16, 2026

- + Glenn closed in prayer.