



CLT COMMUNICATOR



● = Ministry Report; ✚ = Congregational Leadership Team Minutes

August 17, 2026

Present: Angela Zuercher, Michelle Steffen, Jeremy Patterson, Ed Taylor, Conrad Neuenschwander, Barb Ressler, Ken Neuenschwander, Trent Metcalf, Priscilla Spiker

Opening: Trent led a devotional - Isaiah 38:5 - Be careful what you wish for - King Hezekiah's wished for another 15 years of life. God told him, by way of the prophet Jeremiah, that he would soon die so Hezekiah argued with God and wanted 15 more years. It was during these last years his last son, Manasseh, was born. And it was Manasseh who undid all the good that his father had done. Manasseh was for Judah a terrible king. Trent told the story about a young man who suffered greatly with allergies. And in his young mind, he thought if he'd just get rid of his nose, he would get rid of his allergies too. And so it was as with Hezekiah. With "great praying, wailing and gnashing of teeth and tears." and the young man prayed that his nose would go away. And some 40-50 years later that almost happened. So be careful what you pray for.

Pastor's Report - Glenn Nofziger II

- After processing with the Pastoral Team I decided to step down as the Chair of Gifts Discernment for Ohio Mennonite Conference. I served as the Chair for two years and although I thought I could serve another term I decided at ACA to share that in order to balance my pastoral responsibilities I could no longer serve in that way. I saw God in my discernment and decision to serve originally and I am grateful for the time I was able to relate to the Leadership Counsel monthly and the three retreats I was able to experience over the last two and have years. I will continue to be grateful for the conference as they hold my credentials and provide pastoral oversight and guidance. Paula Snyder Balousek is a wonderful Conference Minister and continues to be a much needed support.
- It was so meaningful and fun to share a morning worship service and sermon with Salem Mennonite and Kevin Himes. It was a real highlight for many of our people. I never received so much positive affirmation for a worship service before. It was so fun to get our people together for worship, fellowship and a meal. Bible School was also so positive and encouraging to do together with Salem. I hope that continues in the future.
- The Global Leadership Summit in Chicago was a real pinnacle experience this past month. More PT and or CLT members need to take that in next year. Really anyone interested in growing in leadership should attend. Grace in Wooster no longer hosts the simulcast, but Malone does. Next year we should plan to take a group to Malone University for the GLS Simulcast. It's August 5-6, 2027.
- This third week in August is my third week of vacation for the year. I will be spending just a few days up at Little Eden Camp with my Nofziger family. Our family camp week is cut short this year with Central starting school on Tuesday and Mattea's first day at Malone on Wednesday.
- I continue to relate to Henry as we share messages back and forth as well as phone conversations. He has a plea hearing coming up here at the end of August where the Judge may entertain sentence lengths ranging from four months to two years.
- Really looking forward to Luke's cross country season at Central. The boys team has a legitimate shot at making it to state this year. First time in school history.
- I got permission to take my fourth week of vacation in September as I was invited by a friend turning fifty on a four-man canoeing trip to the Minnesota Boundary Waters.

Pastoral Team - Jeremy Patterson, Leader; Lisa Amstutz, Secretary

- Pastoral Team met August 4, 2026. Barb led devotions on Jeremiah 8:18-19, a call to lament. Lament reflects a soft heart and offers comfort and aid to another person. We need time for lament as well as rejoicing.
 - Thanks to the VBS Committee for a wonderful week!
 - Glenn shared updates on the upcoming preaching schedule. Some ongoing pastoral care needs were discussed.
 - Reviewed the results of the pastoral priorities forms we filled out. We plan to bring a proposal to CLT this month for discussion.
 - October 10 is World Mental Health Day, and October 5-11 is Mental Illness Awareness Week. We talked about ways to highlight resources in the community and at SMC.
 - Discussed the Safe Church policy and Visitation Team and where those fall into the church structure.
 - Did some retreat planning and will meet at Camp Luz September 11-12. This will replace our regular September meeting.
- ✦ Discussion for a love offering for Mattea Nofziger for her Summer Ministry Experience was approved. Priscilla will email the congregation on Wednesday (Mattea's college move-in day, and include in the bulletin
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Adult Ministry - Alice & Trent Metcalf Co-Ministry Leaders

- **Old Business:** Still looking at the Fall Fest for 2026. No corn hole, farm tour ??, Hay ride??
 - **New Business:** Adult Ministries Appointments
 - Food Committee - Connie confirmed
 - Greeter designate - Phil R is willing to pass that on to Adult Ministries. In the process of completing the 2026-27 schedule. August (Phil), September (Rhoda S).
 - Librarian - awaiting confirmation from Bob.
 - Men's fellowship - Don
 - SS secretary - Ellen N. with self appointed assistant(s)
 - Sonnenberg Mennonite Women appointments will be determined at their 8/12/26 meeting.
 - **Annual report discussion**
 - **Rubber Ducks game:** 17 tickets sold of the 60 available to date. Has the QR code been a hindrance ?
 - **Next meeting:** September 15 2027 @ the Metcalf's
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Children's & Youth/Young Adult Ministry - Michael Amstutz Ministry Leader

- **Youth/Young Adults:**
 - working on finding enough youth sponsors to help this coming year.
 - mentors are being chosen for the coming year.
 - **Children:**
 - made plans for having Safe Sanctuary training. As we reviewed the policy, we discovered that Pastoral Team needs to review the policy annually. Along with that, the policy also states that all staff need to have background checks
 - Children's SS this year will be 1-4 and 5-7. We're using Shine curriculum for the year. The first quarter will focus on God and Creation, then the family of Abraham and Sarah.
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Facilities Ministry - Marlin Troyer Ministry Leader

- No Report
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Gifts Discernment Ministry - Conrad Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- No Report
- Will report on the ballot results at this month's CLT meeting. So far 84 ballots have been completed and returned.



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Outreach & Service Ministry - Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- No O&S report
- Next meeting - August 18 - minutes added below

- **Erin joined us to observe** for input to coordinate our monthly emphasis and events with Sojourn articles and news releases. Thanks Erin, we appreciate that!
- **Opening:** Kathy – Isaiah 40: 31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint. Even in our busy full schedules, we can be renewed.
- **Moment for Missions:** Aug. 16 Austin and Griselda Zuercher and sermon, Aug. 30 instead of Sept. 6: MCF c/o LEK (Levi, Ethan & Kathy) Haiti Special Fund: We approve distribution to assist a Haitian nursing student at the Career center.
- **Lighthouse:** Opening house Sept. 12, 9AM-3PM, See brochures. Encourage SMCers to attend.
- **Open Arms:** The Staff is dealing with never ending work with very fearful clients and very difficult circumstances.
- **MMN:** Oyanguren/Sayatan: Jose and Alfonsina are working on the projects. We hope we can raise the remaining funds needed to complete the project in the next few months.
- **Austin and Griselda Zuercher:** Will be Meeting with O&S at our Sept. meeting.
- **Mississippi Catfish Fry:** Will be Sept. 26. Lots of discussion and planning. Volunteer sign-ups will be starting August 30th, and we will introduce our fish fry shirts in the MFM. We would like all MCF workers to wear the new shirt. The shirts cost about \$11, we ask people to pay what they can and if you can, pitch in extra for those who are unable. We hope every able body will make themselves available for prep, set-up, and day of. Remember why we do this and let's have some fun doing it together!
- **Fall Missions Weekend:** Possible dates Nov. 1 st or 8 th . We are in contact with Juan Pacheco Lozano MMN Latin América Rep. about availability and itinerary.
- **O&S Appointments:** Made assignments for the checking with volunteers.
- **Financial O&S Fundraiser account:** Bal 7/31/2026 – \$8,924.15, Restricted - \$6,288.62, Unrestricted Bal. - \$2,635.53: Restrictions: Haiti special fund - \$98.62, MCF fish fryer - \$5,090, MCC Bike Ride - \$100, Open Arms - \$500, Lighthouse - \$500 Distributed this month \$3,821.52 My Coins Count.

Next meeting: Tuesday Sept. 8

- + may need someone to drive to Mississippi to pick up the catfish and fryers for the catfish fry
- + Lighthouse Openhouse is September 12
- + Planning a Fall Missions weekend8

Worship Ministry - Angela Zuercher - Representative

- Erin opened with devotions from “Jesus Calling”, encouraging us to slow down, take a deep breath, and listen for God’s voice. “A leisurely pace accomplishes more than hurried striving.”
- The preaching schedule is good through September. Glenn will check with Ken about the speaker for the Missions weekend in October.
- We will have 3 more outdoor services this year: August 23, September 13, and September 20.
- We spent considerable time talking about how we can make our worship services kid-friendly. We’ve had several new families with kids visit recently. We want to be a congregation where kids are made to feel

welcome and valued in the worship service. Can we give the creative corner another try? We talked about making activity sheets for the kids as well as having specific things for them to listen for in the sermon. Could we also think about having children's church again? We plan to meet with the new children's ministry members in September to discuss this topic.

- Plans are underway for our joint service with Martin's Mennonite which will be August 30 at Sonnenberg. Patrick and Christine Nafziger (Pastors at Martins) are checking into possible speakers for a combined adult Sunday school on immigration. The worship service will be one of scripture and song. Glenn and Patrick will collaborate in presenting the opening. Will discuss with adult ministry and the food committee regarding possibly having a fellowship meal.
- Will continue to discuss the issue of incorporating contemporary music in our worship services.
- Next Meeting: September 23

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**Treasurer's Report - Ed Taylor, Treasurer**

- **Budget:** We have one month left in the 2025-2026 fiscal year, 91.67% of the budget year. Budget giving is at 85.8% of budget and 90% including designated income. Expenses are at 91.6% of budget including designated giving.
- **CCS Tuition:** Fund balance has dropped a bit to under \$25K in the account, somewhat normal for the summer months. Tuition for the 2025/2026 school year is \$34,806 or \$2,900 per month. 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 current CCS budget year ends with the June payment. The June 30 balance in the account is \$22,490.17

The tuition amount for the 2026-2027 school year is \$57,688.14 which is an average of \$4,808 per month for 12 monthly payments. We have 23 students enrolled from kindergarten through grade 12. Three are attending via grandparents.

- ✦ 2026-2027 budget was discussed and will be presented for approval at the meeting next month (September)
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**Action Items:**

- ✦ Motion that the Script money raised in 2026-2027 will go towards the Oyanguren's, Argentine Chaco.  
Motion: Ken Neuenschwander  
2nd: Conrad Neuenschwander  
Motion Passed
- ✦ Motion for approval to move forward to for a search committee for a Family Life Pastor.  
Motion: Conrad Neuenschwander  
2nd: Ed Taylor  
Motion Passed
- ✦ Motion to approve the Covenant of Understanding between Pastor Glenn Nofziger and Sonnenberg with the following verbiage change - replace the dollar amount for health insurance deductible and replace with the word "half".  
Motion: Barb Ressler  
2nd: Ken Neuenschwander  
Motion Passed

**Next Meetings:** September 21  
October 19

- ✦ Jeremy closed in prayer.