



CLT COMMUNICATOR



● = Ministry Report; ✚ = Congregational Leadership Team Minutes

August 18, 2025

Present: Glenn Nofziger II, Trent Metcalf, Ken Neuenschwander, Michelle Steffen, Phil Raber, Jeremy Patterson, Chip Coleman, Lisa Zuercher, Steve Zuercher, Marlin Troyer, Conrad Neuenschwander, Ed Taylor and Ellen Nussbaum

Opening: Trent Metcalf led 1 Peter 3 finishing up last month's devotional. Trent emphasized the Holy Spirit that controls our reins in addition to the aid of the blinders previously mentioned. Trent reminded us that horses are far sighted, must look up and thus down their noses to see close objects. This far sightedness allows a horse to pass by close objects and not be distracted. Also, a shadow roll aids the road horse looking down its nose so it can maintain its course.

Pastor's Report—Glenn Nofziger II

- Glenn attended the Global Leadership Summit in August
- ✚ Glenn spoke briefly about his experience at the Global leadership summit - speakers were amazing, Luke Nofziger attended as well as Phil Raber and Myriam Raber's sister.
- ✚ Glenn has Chosen season 5 dvds and they are available to borrow.
- ✚ Glenn challenged us as CLT to come up with a church wish list - a running dream list in the case of major gift donations etc. Likely there would be different levels of dreams to fit the size of donations. One example would be budget for additional staff that can be hard to fit into budget. It can be facility related as well. Glenn shared other examples but would like to hear ideas next month and in the future.

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

- Pastoral Team met August 4, 2025 in the pavilion. Jeremy opened with prayer. Phil shared some devotional thoughts. How do we keep the first things first? We can get overly busy or distracted and things can compete for our attention. Matthew 6:33: Seek ye first the Kingdom of God.
- Glenn shared about his personal and preaching schedule. He will be attending the Global Leadership Summit and then on vacation for a week. We reviewed a few congregational needs.
- Due to the holiday, our next meeting will be September 8. We are planning for a fall retreat September 19-20.
- Phil shared an update from the hospitality committee. They have met a few times now and brainstormed about signage, greeter roles, and small gifts to hand out.
- Another discussion point was how we discern the need for additional staffing, particularly for our children and youth. We will discuss further at our PT retreat and continue to pray about this.
- ✚ Pastoral team is planning their retreat in September where they will add a new member and discuss a theme for the next year. They will continue to flesh out the mission statement of "Following Jesus Together". Phil will continue on in the ad hoc role with the hospitality committee after his 5 years with Pastoral Team ends in September.

Adult Ministry—Steve & Lisa Zuercher, Co-Ministry Leaders

- As a farewell for Steve & Lisa's final Adult Ministry meeting, Rhoda and Dave brought a dessert. Trent & Alice Metcalf joined the meeting since they will begin leadership for the ministry.

(Adult Ministry's Report con't...)

- A final summer carry-in is planned for August 17. The June carry in celebrated our newly baptized members. In July we bid farewell to our IVEPer Erik. The August carry in invites our Senior Singles to gather without the worry of bringing food.
- Most of the appointments that fall under Adult Ministry have been filled; waiting for confirmation on one appointment. We agreed to keep our Budget the same for the upcoming year.
- Approximately 42 people visited the Kidron Heritage Center and attended the picnic on July 27. Max Gerber at the Center was delighted to have so many visitors. Adult Ministry plans to give a donation to the Heritage Center.
- Ron Taylor has organized tickets for the Akron Rubber Ducks game on August 23. Forty people signed up to attend.
- The Fall Fest is being planned for September 21 (rain date 9/28) at Lloyd and Jane Miller's mini farm.
- + Steve noted that there were 47 Rubber Duck sign ups so far and that it was good to see so much interest.
- + Fall fest plans at Lloyd's are underway, There is a rain date if needed.
- + Last Sunday's carry-in was highlighted by a small token to each Senior Single.

Children's Ministry – Ministry Representatives rotate

- No Report
- + No Report

Facilities Ministry–Marlin Troyer Ministry Leader

- Facilities spent the past month or more working on the sound booth expansion and preparing for new sanctuary carpet. The booth was made larger to better accommodate additional audio and video equipment and people. The audio/video technicians spent many hours working with us to remove the old and rewire the new area and equipment.
- We removed all the pews for the new carpet. About two-thirds of the pews fit in the lobby while the rest were moved into one area while they carpeted about two-thirds of the area. We then re-installed all the west pews while they finished the main area carpet and installed the stage area. They did really good work and the stage and steps are excellent. Thanks to facilities members for all the extra work they did this summer and a special thanks for the many helpers that came to assist us with moving the very heavy pews three different times.
- We plan to replace the lobby carpet and other rooms in the areas west of the fellowship hall within the next year. A group is meeting to look at how we may best use our facilities and determine if we will make any changes before getting more new carpet.
- Otherwise, we are looking at upgrading the spouting after we determine what is needed to best handle the large amounts of water coming off this very large roof system.
- + Nothing added. CLT affirmed that the sanctuary carpet and sound booth projects look great.

Gifts Discernment Ministry–Conrad Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- Presented affirmation ballot to CLT for approval with one opening.
 - Are continuing to find a candidate to fill the Children's Ministry slot.
 - Sunday August tenth congregation voted on Ballot voting is open for anyone absent till Sunday August 24.
 - + Glenn had a suggestion for the open Children's Ministry spot. One thought is using Venture Club reps Erin and Angela to make up the 3rd role for that ministry which may enable them to work together more also.
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Outreach & Service Ministry–Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- **Moment for Mission** – Aug.3: Sammy Squad renaming contest – c/o Kathy T., Aug. 17 & 24: MCF – c/o (Outreach & Service Report con't...)
Levi & Kathy, Aug. 24: Semilla – c/o Karla Cuca Vasquez & Steve Steiner
- **Sammy Squad**: At Gordon A. suggestion we are discussing ways it might be reinvigorated. We are conducting a contest to rename it by the end of Aug. with a gift card for the winner.
- **Oyanguren/Sayatan**: No addition report this month. Linda Shelly is retiring so our connection with the Oyangurens will change. We will likely do more direct communications with them.
- **Freedom House**: We are still looking having Lukas Gaffey ED and/or Travis Tester and others come for a Sunday morning and/or the men's breakfast.
- **Special Camp Luz Event for Latino Families**: Funding for two special retreat day at Camp Luz for Latino will flow through O&S account. Next event is scheduled in August
- **Mississippi Catfish Fry**: Will be September 13th. Our planning and preliminary work continues. Look for information and ways to help as we get closer to the MCF.
- **Vidanet Honduras Building repair fund drive**: A tree fell on the roof of their new discipleship center and did considerable damage. O&S decided, via text, that we would put \$1,000 toward the project as seed money and invite the congregation to contribute. To date we have \$2,375. We will send the money before the end of Aug.
- **MCC Meat Canning**: Their funds are very low, much lower than in past years. They have a person working on raising funds. Some money has been coming in but still need additional funding. We will continue to stay in touch with Trent and help to promote and raise funds.
- **MCC Ohio Relief Sale**: July 11 & 12 – Sale went well. We haven't heard the totals yet. SMC My Coins Count was \$3,257.27. Last year the total was \$2,855.
- **MCC Fall Kit Work Night**: Will be Oct. 8th.
- **Fall Missions Weekend Oct. 11-12** : Looking forward to a Fall Missions weekend. We are working on possible themes and input persons.
- **O&S 2025-2026 Appointments**: We worked on our list of appointments for next year.
- **Financial O&S Fundraiser account Bal 7/31/2025 - \$18,984.76, Restricted - \$15,949.59: Unrestricted Bal. - \$3,035.17.** Restrictions: Haiti special fund - \$4,598.62, Camp Luz special event - \$1,100.70, Jubilee Orphanage - \$100, My Coins Count - \$3,475.27, Pregnancy Center - \$500, MDS - \$1,000, EMM Vidanet Building - \$2,375. Open Arms - \$2,000, MCC Bike Ride - \$50, Love INC – \$100, Lighthouse - \$250, Freedom House - \$400, Distributed this month \$75
- ✦ Ken emphasized everyone helping to advertise for the Fish Fry.
- ✦ Ken heard from the Oyangurens, they are well.
- ✦ There will be a combined Sunday School August 24th Ken hopes is well attended. Semilla seminary in Guatemala will have a Moment For Mission as well. The next Sojourns will highlight a winter learning tour to Semilla that the congregation will be encouraged to consider.

Worship Ministry, Phil Raber, Ministry Leader

- No Report
- ✦ Worship meets after CLT this month. Phil really appreciates the new sanctuary layout with all the extra space to accommodate traffic and serve those less mobile closer to the front.
- ✦ Phil also mentioned he is excited Henry Beun is coming on to that ministry as leader.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry–Michael Amstutz, Ministry Leader

- We were not able to find more people to fill the sponsor role for the year. We decided to check with some parents and others to take scheduled dates and try to share the load.
- We began to discuss the option of a family life pastor or youth pastor. We'd like to see a World Cafe discussion in January with the church to begin assessing need and interest in adding staff.
- ✦ YYA plans to ask parents to step in the gap for MYF sponsor help. If everyone comes on a given Wednesday MYF can have 27 people and they have one female sponsor.

Treasurer's Report–Ed Taylor, Treasurer

- Budget: We have one month left in the current fiscal year, 91.67% of budget. Budget giving is at 81.5% of budget and at 91.2% including budget reimbursement and school rental income. Expenses are at 92.8% of budget which leaves a current shortfall of \$3,863.88.
- 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 July balance in the account is \$28,260.94
- ✦ Nothing added.

Action Items:

- ✦ Covenant of Understanding for Glenn's salary and benefits - CLT discussed a couple minor tweaks with one example being a 4 year evaluation coming up in the Summer of 2026; a bigger review than the 1 year evaluation done by PCR. Conrad made a motion to accept the Covenant and Phil and seconded it. CLT approved it unanimously.
- ✦ Church Budget for 2025 - '26 - Ed went through the first draft of the proposed budget. In September's meeting CLT will need to approve a version to present at the annual business meeting in October. Ed plans to get final August numbers out ahead of mtg on the 15th for a clearer view of the entire year.
- ✦ SCRIP PROJECT FOR 2025-2026 - Ellen plans to make Scrip info available to the congregation in late August and will include mention that the funds for the coming year will go to a special project with the Oyangurens.
- ✦ CLT appointments - Treasurer - Ed Taylor, assistant treasurer - Dave Ross, Church historian - Bob Eshleman and Everence rep - Mim Lehman will stay put;
Ohio Conference delegates will be - Priscilla Spiker (2027), Michael Amstutz (2026),
Bob Eshleman (2026), Lisa Zuercher (2028). Lisa was approved to renew her term that ended this year;
Website Administrator - Phil Raber; Social Media Coordinator - Priscilla Spiker
CCS Corporation Members - Angela Zuercher (2027), Marlin Troyer (2025), Glenn Nofziger (2029); We are checking with Marlin to see if he wants to renew for another 3 year term.
- ✦ Congregation T-Shirts - Jeremy Patterson brought up offering a new round of church t shirts with the new Mission statement "Following Jesus Together". There was discussion on whether this should be a gift and looked at as good advertisement or whether we'd ask the congregation for a suggested donation. CLT decided we would ask for the donation and cover any shortfall with Pastoral Team monies.

Next Meetings: September 15 & October 20, 2025

- ✦ Glenn closed with reflections about positivity with a reminder about how speaking highly about things that are going on can breed more momentum. Glenn encouraged a spirit of giving and mentioned it encourages others to give as well. The spirit of "Following Jesus Together" is something we can be thankful for.