



CLT COMMUNICATOR



● = Ministry Report; ✚ = Congregational Leadership Team Minutes

September 15, 2025

Present: Glenn Nofziger II, Trent Metcalf, Michael Amstutz, Michelle Steffen, Jeremy Patterson, Lisa Amstutz, Chip Coleman, Barb Ressler, Ed Taylor, Hannah Amstutz, Marlin Troyer and Conrad Neuenschwander

Opening: Trent Metcalf led a devotional about fear or faith by the wife of Larry the Cable Guy. She is a horse woman and emphasized that horses have traditionally been prey and thus developed strong flight or fight instincts regardless of a rider's intentions. Fear also spooks us and shortens our rides. With God we are given the choice of fear or faith. God wants freedom for us. Go to God in prayer, exercise your trust muscles. Let your reins go and trust God. Help us to pray instead of worry.

Pastor's Report—Glenn Nofziger II

- Thank you to Facilities and everyone who has put forth so much effort to bring about the updates in the sanctuary! New carpet, paint and updates to the Digital Arts and sound booth. Lots of new wiring and equipment is being run and installed.
- I have met with new ad-hoc committees: Columbarium, Hospitality and the Design and Discernment Team. Great work is being done and it's exciting to think about what God has in store through the work, listening and planning of these committees, people and teams.
- We are relaunching the Connection Cards and Box. It would be really helpful to connect with new visitors if we would remember to encourage people to fill them out and drop them in the box! And remember the Connections Cards can be used to share Prayer Requests too!
- Pray for our visiting preachers this new church year. And pray for me as I line them up. Darius Meraj from Everence will be sharing some of his story and conversion from Islam on September 21. Ken is working with the Freedom House for October 12. On November 9th we are having Janet Boyd, the Director of the Wayne County Love Inc.(In the Name of Christ), coming to share.
- Men's Retreat at Camp Luz Oct 31-Nov 2. I would like to encourage our men to attend this year! It would be great to have a group from church go. Please let me know if you plan to attend.
- ✚ Some new visitors are seeking membership.
- ✚ Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster wants to come through our area on tour June 13 and 14, 2026 - venue, meal(s) and hosts are needed. Glenn will check with Salem and Kidron to see if they would agree to help as hosts.
- ✚ Glenn mentioned the church wish list where anything can be discussed. CLT will discern what makes sense for an actual list. We will start a Google doc for the wishlist ideas. Ideas should not include financial considerations to start. Dream first, discern practicality later.

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

- Pastoral Team met September 8, 2025 in the pavilion. Glenn shared some devotional thoughts from James. Do you ever feel like throwing in the towel? James encourages us to consider it pure joy when we face trials. God will use them for our good. We grow the most during the most difficult times.
- We welcomed Barb to PT and discussed roles – these will be decided at our next meeting. We also discussed details and agenda for our upcoming PT retreat.
- Glenn shared updates on the preaching schedule for the next several months; a few slots still need to be filled.

(Pastoral Team Report con't...)

- ✦ Pastoral Team is looking forward to their upcoming retreat. Please pray for that. How can we push Following Jesus Together into everything we do as a church.
- ✦ We welcomed Barb Ressler officially to CLT.

Adult Ministry–Alice & Trent Metcalf Co-Ministry Leaders

- Senior Singles Carry in- hope to do this twice a year if schedules allow. 9 of the possible 22 attended.
- Fall coffee /snack schedule- will check with Joyce Taylor about the signup sheet. Will continue with the voluntary signup for the snacks/etc with Adult Ministeries (AM) to fill in and will expect some weeks to be no food.
- We will check to see if the donations to the Kidron Historical Village of \$200 was completed.
- Rubber Ducks Outing Review - well attended, mentor pairs covered by Youth & Young Adult Ministries. There is a strong possibility we'll do it again next year.
- The 15th Fall Fest will take place this year at the Lloyd & Jane Miller's at 13653 Jericho Rd on September 21 from 5-8pm.
- Winter Wednesdays - more than likely will be an every other week event. We will look at the schedule the next AM meeting at the church with Glenn for his input.
- ✦ Nothing added

Children's Ministry–Hannah Amstutz

- A special meeting was held with the Children's and Youth and Young Adult Ministry that included Pastor Glenn Nofziger, Hannah Amstutz, Michael Amstutz, and Barb Ressler to evaluate Children's Ministry options for the year. Glenn provided an outline and thoughts on how we could possibly combine our ministries to provide adequate support for this year since no one was willing to replace Rhoda Holton and Kelly and Noah Raines were starting their own church. Hannah became the lone individual remaining on Children's ministry. We agreed that for the time being, these ministries will combine to include Michael Amstutz (leader), Hannah Amstutz, and Ellen Nussbaum.
- An urgent need was to make plans for the primary Sunday School regarding curriculum and asking teachers. We decided to purchase Shine! curriculum for the Fall.
- For the Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Ellen worked very hard to arrange "extra" youth sponsor assistants for the year. Chip Coleman and Laura and Ron Petite will serve as primary sponsors, but a variety of individuals have agreed to help out. A real need was to provide more women to assist. YYA hopes these individuals will only need to help out 3-4 times during the year.
- ✦ Michael and Hannah discussed the coming future for the two ministries as they work together to cover things like Sunday School teachers for the immediate future.

Facilities Ministry–Marlin Troyer Ministry Leader

- Roy Steiner briefed us on the plans to coordinate the removal and trimming of trees on the south west of the property.
 - Planned to organize with Clear Drain to see where the downspouts go and if they are open and make sure there is someone that can meet them.
 - We discussed a contract proposal from Holmes Pest Control and accepted the proposal after some discussion.
 - We discussed possibly buying a new or used Toro lawnmower.
 - We began the process of securing job appointments for the next year.
 - ✦ Nothing added
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Gifts Discernment Ministry–Conrad Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- Gifts opened with devotional and prayer.
- We looked at the 83 ballots cast and all positions were affirmed. We discussed openings still to be filled and are continuing to work at filling them.
- + Conrad emphasized that Gifts is not giving up on finding staffing for both Children's and Youth and Young Adult Ministries. CLT will revisit this situation at next month's meeting.

Outreach & Service Ministry–Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- **Moment for Mission** – Sept. 7: MCF final reminder- c/o Kathy, Oct. 5: Oct. 8 MCC work night – c/o Ken, Nov. 2: People to People food drive – c/o Vince
- **Sammy Squad**: Winner of the renaming contest was Michelle Steffen – Sonnenberg out Serving (SOS)
- **Oyanguren/Sayatan**: Jose, Alfonsina, Juan and Tomas are applying for new 10 year visas. We are contemplating and thinking about when their next visit here to SMC or when SMC should visit there should be.
- **MMN new Regional Director for Latin America**: Juan Sebastin Pacheco. We will try to get him to SMC ASAP.
- **Special Camp Luz Event for Latino Families**: The last event was on August 31 and was very well attended and very much appreciated. That fund was depleted.
- **Mississippi Catfish Fry**: Will be September 13th. Discussed many details, everything seems to be coming together. Estimate on the expenses is \$5,100, to date we have received \$5,320.
- **Vidanet Honduras Building repair fund drive**: \$2,675 was raised and with \$1,000 from O&S we sent \$3,675.
- **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. To date SMC has raised \$1,100. We will include MCC Meat Canning in the distributions after MCF 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. They reported the sale raised over \$500,000.
- **MCC Fall Kit Work Night**: Will be Oct. 8th. We made food assignments and will put out a sign-up sheet on Sept. 28 for the two shifts, 1st shift 4:30-6:00, pizza party 6:00-6:30, 2nd shift 6:30-8:00.
- **Fall Missions Weekend Oct. 12 :** Working on having Freedom House for Sunday morning, combined SS and sermon in worship. We are in contact with Travis Tester and Lukas Gaffey. We will likely provide lunch for their group after the service.
- **Alternative Christmas**: will be Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, & 21. We will have carry-in breakfasts like we've had in the past. I ordered MCC's Trim-the Tree kit they are offering this year.
- **O&S 2025-2026 Appointments**: We have completed the appointments except for Care Facilities Ministry coordinator. We are evaluating if we should start having the Sunday evening hymn singings again at Orrvilla and Shady Lawn.
- **O&S 2025-2026 Budget**: O&S budget will be the same as last year with adjustment for the Corinthian plan as needed
- **Financial O&S Fundraiser account Bal 8/30/2025 - \$10,924.29, Restricted - \$7,485.12: Unrestricted Bal. - \$3,439.17.** Restrictions: Haiti special fund - \$4,598.62, My Coins Count - \$86.50, Freedom House - \$400, MCC Meat Canning - \$850, MCF expenses - \$1,550. Distributed this month **\$12,732.97** (see report)
- + Ed said, "Where's Ken?" Everyone agreed that we shaved a half hour at least off of the CLT meeting. Missed ya Kenny.

Worship Ministry-Henry Beun, Ministry Leader

- We met at the Dariette for supper to celebrate Phil's years of service on Worship Ministry.
- Discussed the preaching schedule for the fall and winter and brainstormed some ideas to fill gaps.
- Reviewed the summer outdoor services. Many enjoy the outdoor venue but some do not and choose not to attend. Consider having services outside every other Sunday throughout the entire Summer (June, July, and August) or switch Sunday School and church so that the service does not take place during the heat of the day.
- Discussed the annual sermon series, using the Narrative lectionary and featuring the Gospel of John. How can we keep people engaged with the scripture so they get the most out of the sermon? Consider giving out handouts each week for the following week with questions to answer or sending out videos to watch during the week. Maybe incorporate some dramas in the service for visuals? Also discussed having kids draw pictures for a timeline poster on the back bulletin board, especially when using OT passages. Decided to also move announcements and sharing to later in the service, after the sermon.
- Discussed the Apprenticeship groups idea, based on James Bryan Smith's book, "The Good and Beautiful God" and brainstormed a bit on how to encourage participation.
- Brainstormed some ideas on how to gain some new song leaders. Will tap a few shoulders of people we feel may have this gift.
- Briefly discussed WMT roles for the coming year. Will come back to this more with the addition of Henry at our next meeting.
- Phil closed with devotions using a video from the Bible Project, highlighting a passage from the gospel of John, illustrating John the Baptist as the "flashlight" and God as the "big light" to guide our lives.
- ✚ The hospitality team is working on a church brochure that is close to finished. It will be printed on glossy paper and used as part of an updated atmosphere of welcome on Sunday mornings.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry-Michael Amstutz, Ministry Leader

- See Children's Ministry report
- ✚ Nothing added

Treasurer's Report-Ed Taylor, Treasurer

- Budget: We have reached the end of the current fiscal year, 100% of the budget. Budget giving is at 90.2% of budget and at 100.3% including budget reimbursement and school rental income. Expenses are at 102.3% of budget which leaves a fiscal year end shortfall of \$5,130.13.
- New fiscal year budget is about \$8k more than the last year's budget. It is about \$6k more than net spending for the last year. We need budget offerings of \$5,012 per week.
- 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.
- ✚ Year end financial reports are at the accountants and will be ready by the end of September. Ed shared that the Catfish Fry had grossed nearly \$21,200 so far.
- ✚ The proposed budget for 2025-2026 was approved to present at the annual church meeting on October 26th. Michelle voted to pass and Conrad seconded it. A unanimous vote carried.

Action Items:

- ✚ **Children's/Youth & Young Adult** - Can we help them find a solution to a lack of members? We would suggest combining those two teams so that they can work on the big picture together. Maybe they need some ad-hoc



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(Action Items con't...)

members to help them brainstorm ideas and move some things down the field. Is this a place we ought to be prayerfully considering another staff person?

Over the next month Children's & Young Adults will continue to see what response comes in with other possible people onto committee as well as Gifts Ministry tapping people as well. Sunday School seems to be the most immediate need.

- ✦ **Annual Meeting Agenda** - (October 26th) Our next CLT meeting will only be 6 days before the Annual Meeting. We wondered if we should talk as a group about the agenda for the Annual Meeting. What's important to talk about this year? CLT worked through the agenda possibilities and narrowed them down. Trent is checking with folks about possible topics the congregation may need to hear about.
- ✦ **CCS Corporation Members** - Angela Zuercher (2027), Marlin Troyer (2025), Glenn Nofziger (2029); Marlin declined the chance to renew so we need a third representative for a 3 year term. Joyce Taylor is willing to take up this position through 2028.

Next Meetings: October 20 & November 17, 2025

- ✦ Glenn closed in prayer