



# CLT COMMUNICATOR



● = Ministry Report; ✚ = Congregational Leadership Team Minutes

November 18, 2024

**Present:** Glenn Nofziger, Ed Taylor, Trent Metcalf, Marlin Troyer, Lisa Zuercher, Ken Neuenschwander, Rhoda Holton, Michelle Steffen, Phil Raber, Conrad Neuenschwander, Michael Amstutz, Chip Coleman and Steve Zuercher.

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**Opening:** Trent shared from AJ Russell talking about quiet lives from a devotion collection called *God Calling* by two lower class ladies in 19th century England. It is a divine gift to lead lives for Christ and the joy we receive is not earthly fame or distinction. In fact no earthly reward can equal it, nor can joy come from earthly origin. Trent then opened the meeting with prayer.

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

- Our team of Ken N, Jo S, Erin and I had a wonderful trip to Argentina! It was so good to connect with Jose and Alphonsina, get to know them better, and witness the work they do. It was fun joking around with Jose and meaningful to see how Jose functions in his capacity as the director of the Educational Center, Sayaten. There is just such a testimony of camaraderie and collaboration in the work and ministry there and in the churches.
  - Thanks again to everyone who showed me and my family such love, support and appreciation this past month of Pastor's appreciation month.
  - October and November are just so fun, meaningful and beautiful; celebrating birthdays and Thanksgiving. We love the fall and this season of being grateful that leads into Advent and Christmas!
  - I really appreciate all the work each of our church ministries do year round.
  - This passage of Scripture has been on my heart for our people in this season: Isaiah 40:28-31. I pray that everyone may Hope in the Lord and renew your strength.
  - ✚ Glenn appreciated Trent's opening. Talked about the Thanksgiving service how it has come together and what the evening will look like. We will plan to donate for the cost to cover the evening as Behalt is not charging us to rent the facility.
  - ✚ Reflected on the Argentina trip and how amazing it went making connections with the Oyangurens but also seeing how they make connections.
  - ✚ Talked about Thanksgiving plans and schedule. Nofzigers will be gone Dec 8 to celebrate 20th anniversary in Nashville.
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## **Pastoral Team—Jeremy Patterson, Leader; Lisa Amstutz, Secretary**

- Pastor Glenn led in devotions. Reflecting on our theme verse, how did we feel this verse served us this past year? What has it meant? Glenn shared some examples of where sadness or opposition leads to joy. He led in prayer.
- Glenn shared some updates on his schedule and upcoming worship services as well as some reflections on the Argentina trip. A few congregational needs were shared as well.
- We continue to process ideas on the vision and mission of SMC for later discussion with the congregation. We also spent some time thinking about next year's annual theme and how we might tie in with the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism.
- ✚ Planning for Wednesday night Winter sessions for visioning exercises for the congregation.
- ✚ Kudos given to Adult ministry for Senior Singles carry in meal.

### **Adult Ministry–Steve & Lisa Zuercher, Co-Ministry Leaders**

- Details for the upcoming carry in meal were finalized. Hawaiian leis were ordered to adorn each Senior Single during the meal.
  - The sign-up sheet for breakfast pastries is full thru the end of November. Advent breakfasts begin in December and fall under the responsibility of Outreach and Service.
  - Winter Wednesdays planning is underway. Proposed dates are Jan 22, Feb 5, Feb 19, March 5, Mar 19 & April 2.
  - + Finalizing dates and events for Winter Wednesday options. It will remain as an every other week format with meals each Wednesday we meet.
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### **Children's Ministry – Ministry Representatives rotate**

- Planned our Christmas party with all of the kids during Sunday school hour the Sunday before Christmas.
  - Additionally, we started to plan out Winter Wednesday activities for the kids.
  - We will not meet in December
  - + Michelle S will do the Advent children's stories.
  - + Dec 5 is the due date for Lighthouse gifts. Also financial donations are welcome. They are delivered on the 7th.
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### **Facilities Ministry–Ed Taylor, Ministry Leader**

- Talked about sound booth expansion possibly before the carpet this summer.
  - Talked about needing to get the gutters cleaned out and installing the railing on the new kitchen steps soon.
  - Discussed the urn wall. Two opinionated members gave opposing views and one wondered if the movement would flame out.
  - We observed that the falling leaves are being processed or blown into the woods. We expressed gratitude for Dave Ross, Henry Beun, and Roy Steiner's work.
  - Had some minor discussion about fire alarm and drywall repair.
  - We briefly discussed Heritage School, possibly leaving in December and the condition of the rooms in the basement.
  - + Kitchen railing was installed 11/18. Facilities continues talk about timing and details of future projects.
  - + Looking ahead for what will happen in downstairs classrooms and desire some direction for priority of projects.
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### **Gifts Discernment Ministry–Conrad Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader**

- Ellen Nussbaum has agreed to finish the term of Greta Patterson on Youth & Young Adult Ministry.
  - + Nothing to add.
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### **Outreach & Service Ministry–Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader**

- Moment for Mission – Nov.17: Reminder for People-to-People food drive c/o Vince, Dec. 1: Alternative Christmas c/o Levi, Dec. 8 or a Jan. Sunday: MCC live Zoom with David Driver from Poland on Ukraine
- Semillia: Steve Steiner invited me to a meeting on Oct. 22nd with Jerry and Leonor Kennell representing Semillia at Tilmor along with Steve's brothers. Jerry and Leonor shared about the impact and the reach of Semillia in Latin America. I invited them to SMC the next time they are in the area. They said, "Name the time and we'll be here". Steve has contacted me again to encourage it to happen. Jerry and Leonor volunteered a year at Semillia in 2018, the year I visited Semillia and they planned our itinerary.
- Oyanguren Argentina Trip: The Argentina/Chaco trip was a very worthwhile and important visit! We were so impressed by all the activities going on at Sayatan, radio station, recording studio, students finishing their high school, Jesus film dubbing, writing the Toba Qom dictionary, recording the entire Bible in the Toba Qom language, public school teachers being taught to read and speak Toba Qom so they qualify to be bilingual in their classrooms, constant construction, maintenance and improvements going on,



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(Outreach & Service Report con't...)

old people and young people, church and unchurched working together, sharing responsibilities just wanting to be together with common goals and a place where youth come just to hang out, that is Sayatan! It was so neat to experience their humor, their commitment, their joy and satisfaction of a work well done. We worshiped with a couple outdoor churches out in the Toba neighborhoods, which was very interesting. We visited an artisan shop and the home of the ladies weaving all kinds of baskets and other items. Perhaps some of the most important time was spent around Alfonsina and Jose table and on their newly refinished patio, building our friendship. We discussed a wide variety of subjects. We laughed, we were serious, our eyes watered, we talked of hopes, concerns, needs, losses, joys and we played with Emy. While our trip home was memorable with consecutive nights trying to sleep on a bus and then on an airplane, it will not cloud our memory of the wonderful time we spent with Jose, Alfonsina, Juan, Tomas, Felipe and Emy. After a 13 hour overnight bus ride to Buenos Aires we went to the home of former Mennonite pastor Sergio and his wife Mabel for breakfast and lunch. Before breakfast we walked to a couple bakeries to pick up pastries for our breakfast and gave us an opportunity to see their neighborhood. After lunch we visited with the pastor at a Mennonite church in a very depressed neighborhood. He shared their history, their struggles and victories as we walked several blocks around the church. We then spent the afternoon and evening visiting several historic sites, government buildings and a very large, beautiful rose garden park before heading for the airport and our flight back to the USA.

- Haiti: Myriam is planning a trip to Haiti in December. She will be able to take the \$1000 we have designated for Haiti schools. She will help us determine where the money should go. The community school facilities we have helped in the past have been taken over by gangs and has had to relocated, Myriam doesn't know where and there is such a shortage of food they may gather the children just to feed them a lunch. They also added additional funds to the special Haiti fund which she is also planning to take into Haiti.
- MCC work night: We are planning an MCC kit work night after the first of the year and the new building is finished. We are also in contact with a couple of organizations for some spring projects.
- Alternative Christmas Dec. 1, 8, 15 & 22 - 8:50-9:30: We will use the MCC 2024 Christmas Giving Guide with posters and displays. We are inviting individuals or groups to do live music. We are asking families with last names beginning with A-N to bring breakfast food Dec. 1st & 15th and families with last names beginning with O-Z to bring breakfast food Dec. 8th & 22nd .
- Fund Distribution: \$500 ea. to Bangladesh Water, Bridge of Hope, MCC Kits - \$1000 ea. To Jubilee Orphanage, Love INC, MDS - \$1500 ea. to EMM Austin & Giselda, Open Arms - \$2000 to Camp Luz - \$2500 to Lighthouse and \$3000 to MMN Oyanguren projects.
- Financial O&S Fundraiser account: Bal 9/30/2024 - \$23,349.89 -- Haiti Special Projects - \$5,598.62, Hope's House - \$600, Haiti Community School - \$1,000, Lighthouse-\$500, My Coins Count - \$346, MCC Meat Canning- \$550, Argentina Trip-\$500, EMN Austin & Griselda-\$50, Bangladesh Water-\$500, Total Restricted- \$9,644.62--Unrestricted \$13,705.27
- ✚ Jan 19 or 26th will be a date for a Ukrainian rep to speak to Sonnenberg.
- ✚ Ken seconded Glenn's comments about the Argentina visit. The Oyangurens are socially isolated and Ken emphasized the importance of maintaining strong ties.
- ✚ Ken mentioned plans for Alt Christmas. After that project Ken wants in January to raise money to put up a roof on a building in Argentina as well as purchase a small plot of land. The plan is to do this in conjunction with Souderton MC, a new supporting church, in place of Pike MC who pulled support last summer.

### **Worship Ministry, Phil Raber, Ministry Leader**

- We held our meeting at Orr Valley Creamery to celebrate the 4 November birthdays within our worship ministry group.
- Discussed some advent details. Team is coming together. Still a few contacts to be made to finalize visuals and song leaders. Considering asking senior saints to light advent candles.
- Discussed worship leader rotation and adding some new people. We wonder who else might have interest in helping to lead worship?
- Brainstormed some options for preaching, specifically for Anabaptist world fellowship Sunday in January.
- Phil closed the meeting with reflections on Ecclesiastes 3 and listening to the song "Turn! Turn! Turn!" by the Byrds. There is a season for everything and God is there to guide us along the way.
- ✦ Marcus Yoder may speak on the 26th for Menno World Fellowship Sunday with communion.
- ✦ Phil mentioned they are solidifying the worship leader rotation for 2025. Taking suggestions.
- ✦ WM is open to ideas on how to celebrate the 500 anniversary this coming year.

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### **Youth/Young Adult Ministry—Michael Amstutz, Ministry Leader**

- Nothing to report.
- ✦ Michael shared they focused on young adults staying connected within the congregation at the last YYA meeting.

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### **Treasurer's Report—Ed Taylor, Treasurer**

- Budget: We are in the second month of the current fiscal year, 16.67% of the budget. Budget giving is at 11.4% of budget and at 15.3% including school rental income. Expenses are at 19.8% of budget, 16.6% with other income is included. A few one-time expenses have put the expense numbers high. Office A/C was replaced at a cost of \$9,500. The over \$1,900 office expenses were for yearly accounting audit, Quickbooks yearly payroll software fee and copier contract.
- CCS Tuition: The CCS Tuition balance has remained strong throughout the past year and we started off the new school year with over \$30,000 in the fund. Our obligation for the 2024/2025 school year is \$26,271. This will be \$2,189.25 per month. We will also be contributing an additional monthly gift of \$2,190 for a total of \$ 4,379.25. The total for the 2024-2025 school year is \$52,551. The October 31 balance in the account is \$33,261.91.
- ✦ Ed mentioned Facilities will get need to tap some of the Building Endowment to help cover improvement costs that aren't covered in the budget.

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### **Action Items:**

- ✦ CLT plans not to meet in December and on the 4th Monday of January, the 27th, to accommodate travel schedules.
- ✦ CLT plans to tap a couple folks to start an ad hoc group to focus the planning and get a specific idea in front of the congregation for a columbarium. With that in place we will start to raise funds and see what scale of the memorial makes sense to start breaking ground on in Spring/Summer 2025. It is possible to start small in a way that can be built up later and still look cohesive.

### **Next Meetings:** Jan 27 and Feb 17, 2025

- ✦ Glenn closed in prayer