

Bahia Vista Mennonite Church
Overseers Update to the Congregation
September 22, 2013

1. The Overseers met on Tuesday, September 17, 2013.
2. Approval was given for the Minister of Children to participate in the fundraising event at SCS to raise money for the BVMC Children's Ministry.
3. Pastor Roger Shenk (2014), Zack Morris (2015) and Wes Oswald (2015) were appointed to serve as BVMC delegates at the Southeast Mennonite Conference which is scheduled for October 4 and 5 at Iglesias Menonita Arca de Salvacion in Fort Myers. Gene Yoder (2013) and Nancy B. Yoder (2013) began their delegate terms in 2011.
4. The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday December 8, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. The agenda will include the election of two Overseers and approval of the Annual Ministry Goals (budget). Nominations for Overseers will be accepted October 27 – November 10, 2013. Overseer Wendy Donavon will give leadership to the Overseer election process. The Overseers completing terms are Beth Ebersole and Jerome Yoder.

Matt Higgins, Sr. has announced "with great regret that he needs to step down from his role as Overseer because of his travel schedule." The Overseers will appoint a replacement for Matt.

5. Pastoral Report: Pastor Roger Shenk

242 Night has been our focus the past couple months. We poured a lot of energy into it, believing that a strong interconnectedness is vital to our church health, and that a relationally healthy church is vital to our mission of "befriending all." So we have created this opportunity for fellowship, eating together, studying together, and praying together. (Acts 2:42)

I am encouraged that we were able to host 21 days of consecutive prayer meetings with a typical attendance of fifteen or twenty people, and a few nights with as many as seventy or eighty. Some people attended almost every single prayer meeting. Each member of the pastoral team took their turn leading meetings, and I encouraged them to give their own expression to it. I think it was beautiful to see that. I believe we honored God. And we encouraged each other in our public willingness to lay aside convenience in desire of God's favor. We worshiped.

Sunday, September 22 at 6:00 p.m. we will have our visioning meeting: Imagining the Future. I will talk about what the future of Bahia Vista could look like if we pursue our mission. I'll describe what I think God is leading us toward, complete with challenges, opportunities, and possibilities. Then we'll take time for people to speak into it, to help craft the vision. I am already hearing from people who are excited to suggest ministry opportunities. The energy seems to be high for this right now.

COMMUNITY

- Our September 4th 242 Kick-Off Party had about 150 people. It was a great evening of fun.

- Our first full 242 Night was the following Wednesday (Sep 11). We had about 130 people and served them “family style.” Our first week had 103 adults participating in nine classes.
- The visitation team continues to be an active ministry, making weekly visits to sixteen individuals and regular phone calls to another eight.
- Individual Spiritual Direction is also being engaged by another six persons, and many spiritual friendships are being engaged in throughout the congregation.

WORSHIP

- The Family Service continues to grow, is making significant contributions to the church budget, and is gaining a sense of identity.
- Choir begins later this month.

SERVICE

- We completed Family Promise this weekend.
- We started a backyard cleanup project for a couple with health issues, and are planning a day when the youth and others can help complete the job, including power washing etc.
- We had a community night at Pine Ridge a couple weeks ago, with 25 to 30 people attending.

CHILDREN

- On September 4 we started Kids Church programming for the entire service and it's going well; the kids really enjoy it.
- Wednesday night programming started this week. We have enough teachers for four different classes. We still need some helpers.
- We have six new enthusiastic Middle School helpers on Sunday mornings, leading worship, doing skits and checking people in.
- We are installing a semi-permanent (can be removed) fence in the children's courtyard to enhance security and safety for our children.

YOUTH

- We have begun separate Wednesday night programming for Middle Schoolers. This allows the same topics to be taught to High Schoolers and Middle Schoolers in age-appropriate ways.
- Zack was the main speaker at the SCS High School Retreat on September 12th and 13th. He was well received and the students were very responsive. I heard several students and teachers saying that it was the best retreat they'd had in several years.

ADMINISTRATION

- We are beginning the budget process for 2014. Each of the pastoral team is looking at their programming to make sure that it reflects their best effort at befriending people with the love of Christ. And, under advisement by the finance committee, we are aiming at a zero-increase budget.
- Many parts of our office operations have been streamlined for efficiency.

Nancy I. Yoder, Chair
Nancy B. Yoder, Secretary