

Bahia Vista Mennonite Church  
**Overseers Update to the Congregation**  
October 20, 2013

1. The Overseers met on Tuesday, October 15, 2013.
2. Church Administrator Gene Yoder presented the proposed 2014 Ministry Goals (Budget) for review. Affirmations and recommendations were made for the proposed budget that will be brought to the November Overseers meeting for approval.
3. Master Planning Committee Chair Mike Christner shared ideas related to the master plan presentation that will be shared at the Congregational Meeting on November 17, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
4. Nominations for Overseers will be accepted in written form and online October 27 – November 10, 2013. Two Overseers will be selected by written ballot at the Annual Members Meeting scheduled for December 8, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.
5. Pastoral Report: Pastor Roger Shenk

Our Imagining the Future meeting on September 22nd was attended by 124 people who brought energy and attentiveness to the meeting. I told the history of Bahia Vista, from Jesus to the present day, highlighting the stories of fifteen people whose lives have been changed because of our ministry. There was good enthusiasm as we celebrated the effectiveness of God's work among us!

I chose to gather us around a renewed sense of our mission before talking about details of our vision because mission must drive vision. It's easy to create excitement about vision because we get to talk about things we can see and measure, like adding people and programs, or renovating buildings. And we need to spend time doing that! But we need to make sure that we are giving ourselves completely to our mission: "to befriend all with the love of Christ through community, worship, and service." As we engage in that we begin to prayerfully imagine what it might look like to bring many people into genuine, lifelong friendship with Jesus and his Church! And that becomes our vision.

As I said, I can envision a future where we see families revitalized, Sarasota awakened to faith in Jesus, the local Church working together in unity, and--in the middle of it all--Bahia Vista as a vital ministry because it consistently dares to take the Lord's commission seriously.

As we get better at our mission our current facilities and programs will become inadequate--and in some ways they already are. So the next step in our *Imagining the Future* conversation is to discuss our Master Plan; we need to put plans in motion now so that we are prepared to respond when future needs arise. So, at our next congregational meeting on November 17th, we will discuss how we can set ourselves up for future ministry while continuing to concentrate on our present ministry. I'm looking forward to that discussion.

Thank you for your many prayers. Please keep praying the Acts 4:30 prayer with me: "Lord, enable us to speak your word boldly. Stretch out your hand to heal, and to perform signs and wonders in the name of Jesus. Amen."

## COMMUNITY

- On October 6th we received three people into membership: Rick Jenckes, and Joe and Martha Gravois.
- The 242 Night Team asked to meet with the Pastoral Team to evaluate effectiveness and plan for sustainability. It was a good meeting, with good suggestions.

## WORSHIP

- I am continuing to preach through the fruit of the Spirit as listed in Galatians 5. On September 29th I concluded the five-week series called "Fully Faith." On October 13th I began a four-week series called "Gentle." This is the eighth series out of what will be nine.
- Choir began this month and gave their first performance October 13th with thirteen people.

## SERVICE

- 242 Night is a new service opportunity where a number of people have pitched in to help.
- On September 23rd I took my guitar to Gator Wilderness Camp and spent time encouraging the boys there.

## CHILDREN

- We continue to decorate the north courtyard as a children's wing to create a space that is visibly designated as a children's area that is fun and secure.
- Our Sunday morning teachers have a two-week rotation, with helpers rotating every other week so that the children experience consistency even when teachers rotate.
- We met with the ministers of family and children from Sarasota Alliance to discuss partnering with them as one of several host churches at next summer's WinShape camp to be held at a neutral site in the community.

## YOUTH

- Several youth have asked to be baptized!
- Zack followed up his role as the main speaker for last month's SCS High School Retreat by visiting with the students over lunch on several Mondays.
- Our separate Middle School programming is in full swing and being enjoyed by the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.

## ADMINISTRATION

- Gene is working with his finance team to develop a draft of the 2014 Ministry Goals (Budget)
- I have been conducting annual reviews with the ministers on the Pastoral Team.
- Thirteen people from Bahia Vista attended the Southeast Mennonite Conference Annual Meeting at Iglesia Arca de Salvacion held On October 4th and 5th: Zack Morris, Wes Oswald, Roger Shenk, Gene Yoder and Nancy B. Yoder were there as delegates; Larry Diener serves as Conference Moderator; Doris Diener serves as Conference Minister to Women; Jennifer Shenk and Micah Shenk participated (along with myself) in the praise team; others attended with no official role. Keynote speaker was Ewuare Osayande, the coordinator of the Anti-Oppression ministry of the Mennonite Central Committee. I was one of six pastors/representatives asked to speak about what God is doing in their congregation. Delegate action was taken to approve the minutes from last October, and to pass the 2014 budget as presented with Conference Minister Marco Guete going to half-time employment. There was no other business.

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