

Bahia Vista Mennonite Church  
**Overseers Update to the Congregation**  
June 15, 2014

1. The Overseers met on Tuesday, June 10, 2014.
2. Charis Center  
Attorney Jennifer Grosso has filed for a hearing regarding the Charis Center, but the date has not yet been determined. The projected cost of the hearing is \$5,000 - 10,000. An anonymous donor has agreed to underwrite the cost of legal fees for BVMC up to \$10,000.
3. Southeast Mennonite Conference Report  
Southeast Mennonite Conference has not reported regarding their findings after reviewing the Overseers decision making related to Larry Diener's resignation and the Charis Center.
4. SCS Student Tuition Assistance Program  
The Finance Committee is processing with SCS as to how to implement the proposed SCS Scholarship Fund Policy. The current SCS Student Tuition Assistance Program will remain in affect until the new SCS Scholarship Fund is established.
5. BVMC Corporate Board and Delegate Appointments  
Sarasota Christian School Corporate Board:  
The first SCS Corporate Board appointee is Kayla Miller (2017). The second position will be filled upon appointment of the minister of youth. Continuing SCS Corporate Board representatives include Wendy Shenk (2014), Christa Webber (2015), Wendy Donovan (2016) and Rachel Hershberger (2016).  
Sunnyside Corporate Board:  
Current Sunnyside Corporate Board representatives whose terms will end September 30, 2014 include Marlene Beachy, Treva Kurtz, and Galen Swope. Newly appointed Sunnyside Corporate Board representatives with terms from October 1, 2014 thru September 30, 2017 include Dave Polen, Renee Krabbe and Michelle Wass. Both the representatives whose terms end and begin in 2014 will be invited to the annual meeting in September 2014; however the representatives whose terms begin in 2014 will attend the meeting as observers and will not be voting. Continuing Corporate Board representatives include Dennis Yoder (2015), Elsie Horst (2015), Pastor Roger Shenk, Church Administrator, Gene Yoder.  
Southeast Mennonite Conference (SMC) Assembly:  
Pastor Roger Shenk (2017) has been appointed to serve as delegate to the SMC Assembly. Continuing delegates to SMC assembly include Zack Morris (2015) and Wes Oswald (2015).
6. Pastoral Report: Pastor Roger Shenk  
The Pastoral Report is attached.

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

# PASTOR'S REPORT TO OVERSEERS

*June 10, 2014*

## Vitality

Last month's picture of a new plant growing out of an old plant really seemed to spark a reaction. For some, it generated excitement, but for others, uneasiness. That reality continuously reminds me that leading a congregation through a revitalization process requires great wisdom, faith, and love. I continue to have great love for this congregation, and faith in God for this work. And I continue to ask for wisdom and discernment.

Of course, any vitality is ultimately a work of the Holy Spirit. I pray for this daily. I appreciate your ongoing prayers as well, especially that God's Spirit would move powerfully among us, calling more and more people to a renewed faithfulness in Christ at Bahia Vista.

## Pastoral Team

As I said last month, the pastoral team and I have been looking at whether and how staff responsibilities might be redistributed to complement each other. I believe the following additions and changes will make us more effective at our mission. We're discussing other changes to help give better attention to our various age groups, and I will update you as they develop. I do not expect any of these changes to increase the 2014 budget:

- **Executive Pastor:** I am excited to officially recommend this new staff position. This person would be responsible to oversee and manage the functional and administrative aspects of the church's mission, including all community, worship, and service programming for all ages.
- **Care Pastor:** With the above in place, I would move Shirley to this new position where she would be responsible for the spiritual, emotional, and relational well-being of the church, through spiritual direction, counsel, visitation ministries, and mentoring of pastoral staff.
- **Traditional Music Director:** I would like to hire a part-time music director to give leadership to the traditional service. This person would serve in the same capacity for the traditional service as Rodney has been serving in the modern service for the past several years.

## Community

We continue to create opportunities for believers to gather around "the apostles' teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayer." (Acts 2:42) In lieu of weekly "242 Night" meals this summer, we are hosting weekly classes and monthly events designed for the whole church family.

- June 25th we are having a Beach Party from 7-9p, at Siesta Beach. This will be a time of fellowship and fun. We understand that summer schedules are hit-and-miss, but we are hoping those who are in town will be able to attend this first of our three summer church-wide events.
- We are hosting a nine-week, intergenerational Bible Study on the book of James. We meet in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesdays, at 6:33p, around tables for discussion.
- GriefShare is in week four of thirteen, and includes several persons from the community.
- This past week we met with Brenda and Kimberly Musall, and are excited to accept their application for membership. They will both be baptized and received as members in an upcoming worship service.

## Worship

We have again experienced the yearly phenomenon where we shrink rapidly from “very large church” to “little neighborhood church.”

- The Modern service continues to have good enthusiasm with a continual flow of new people.
- The Traditional service is feeling the effects of people who are not currently attending, but I hold out hope that this service will again become an attractive and inviting worship experience, and I am working toward that.
- The Christian Fine Arts Series committee has decided to disband. We will continue to host concerts, including those with current contracts, as well as planning for new events. We are currently working on bringing in the King’s Brass for January 2016. We will also look at hosting more contemporary concerts.
- Some have asked about why we stopped listing our worship gatherings “Traditions” and “Family” and are now listing them as “Traditional” and “Modern.” This simply reflects what we noticed as a gradual shift in how people were describing the services, and allows us to speak of the whole church as “family” without sending confusing messages.
- I met with the Worship Design Team to discuss how we might work together to create distinct environments for each worship gathering, that would be inspiring. I felt it was a good meeting in which tensions were addressed and resolved. One item of discussion was the pallet-board cross wall, and there was consensus that it is appreciated by many and should stay until there is a reason to change it.

## Service

We have had three monthly Service Team meetings now. Most recently we talked about learning to invite people from outside the church to come serve with us in ways they would find meaningful. This includes us learning to go serve with them as well. This is one way we can “befriend people with the love of Christ through service.”

- Five people have expressed interest in joining and re-energizing our Broadcast Team.
- New people helped serve at Family Promise last month. It’s exciting that Bahia Vista continues to be a favorite place for the families in Family Promise.
- Our Dorcas Circle went above and beyond by making blankets for our high school and college graduates, which received them in a presentation during our worship gatherings on June 8th.
- The Bahia Vista Community Builders continues to explore new homes to buy and fix up. What a gift that group is to us as a church. They are very effective at what they do, and it is going to reap big rewards for our ministry in Sarasota.

## Children

We are working to make our children’s ministry as attracting as possible for children.

- Starting June 8th, we have reserved a children’s area so that our children can join the singing in the second service before heading back to Kid’s Church.
- The nursery was recently painted to match thematically with the other classrooms.
- Winshape Camp is July 14-18, at Sarasota Christian School, hosted by a partnership between Abundant Life, Sarasota Alliance, and Bahia Vista. It was unfortunate that the only week available was also the same week that Lakewood Retreat has its summer camp (which all three churches have participated in), but we felt that this opportunity would more directly

reach the unchurched children here in Sarasota, which is something all three churches are eager to do. I am told that next year this will not conflict with Lakewood's camp. We are still working on fundraising.

## Youth

With Zack's resignation we are regrouping about what youth ministry will look like at Bahia Vista. I will be meeting soon with the youth leaders to get their input before moving forward with any sort of replacement hire. We want to have plans in place before the beginning of the school year.

- Youth are planning summer activities, including a youth retreat the weekend of July 18th.
- We are inviting the high school graduates to join The Post, which meets on Thursday nights.

## Administration

We continue to be conscientious in the administration of the church, including facilities and finances.

- Marlin Yoder is now back from his knee surgery, and has resumed his custodial responsibilities. Much thanks to Nathan Slone who served capably during Marlin's absence, and is available on call, as needed.
- We have added a new Welcome Center to our foyer as part of our ongoing effort to update our facilities, and to enhance our hospitality.
- We are reducing expenses with shorter summer office hours: Monday - Thursday, 9a - 3p.

Humbly submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross".