

Bahia Vista Mennonite Church
Overseers Update to the Congregation
September 14, 2014

1. The Overseers met on Tuesday, September 9, 2014.
2. **Finance Committee**
The proposed Finance Committee Policy presented by the Finance Committee was edited and approved.
3. **Bank Signature Authorization**
The Treasurer was authorized to appoint five persons who will have check signing privileges. The Treasurer will report those names to the Overseers and inform the Overseers anytime a change is made in authorized signatures.
4. **Membership List**
Pastor Roger and the Ministerial Team were asked to develop a plan for addressing the process for how individuals become members, the criteria for membership, the criteria for terminating and/or resigning from membership, and maintaining an up-to-date and accurate membership list. The plan will be shared with the Overseers at their October Overseers meeting.
5. **Southeast Mennonite Conference Assembly**
Church Administrator Gene Yoder reported planning is going well for the Southeast Mennonite Conference Assembly that will be held at BVMC on October 3 and 4, 2014. Those interested in volunteering to assist with assembly activities may sign up at the Welcome Center.
7. **Annual Congregational Meeting**
The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the church. The Chair of Overseers and one Overseer will be elected at this meeting.
8. **Pastoral Report (attached): Pastor Roger Shenk**

Wes Oswald, Vice Chair
Nancy B. Yoder, Secretary

PASTOR'S REPORT TO OVERSEERS

September 8, 2014

Looking Forward

The efficacy of God's love and wisdom is being proven among us. People are coming to faithfulness here! We celebrate this weekend's baptism, as well as membership conversations we're having with others. Hallelujah. We're seeing a stream of people visiting and finding joyful fellowship here, with a dozen or more who have been attending regularly this summer. I frequently hear how people have felt welcome here. Several have even said, after their first visit, that they have found their new home. On August 24th we hosted a "Newcomers Luncheon" for these people along with Bahia Vista friends who had connected with them. It was well-attended, with several dozen people. It's a joy to include them in our fellowship.

I continue to believe that what Bahia Vista offers is something Sarasota needs: the love of Jesus that leads us in caring community, Christ-centered worship, and compassionate service. In fact, it's something we *all* need! So we continue to pour ourselves into that, befriending as many people as possible with the love of Jesus. May it be said of these times that we loved getting together for worship, and spiritual friendship, and that the Lord added to our number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47) Please pray and work with me to that end, that we would together be devoted to God's glory in the church, here in our lifetime. Amen.

Staff

Ongoing Training. It's good to invest in ongoing staff development, and we've been fortunate to be able to take advantage of a few conferences lately: The pastoral team with several overseers attended the *Global Leadership Summit* hosted by Abundant Life Church, August 14-15; Wendy and I attended the *Double Conference* at Newspring Church, in Anderson, SC, August 28-29; and Kayla attended the *Experience Conference* in Orlando, September 2-5.

Interim Youth Director. We are thankful to Nori Yoder for accepting this part-time, interim position.

Seniors Minister. On August 24th I announced my plan to reassign Dennis Bontrager to the new position of Seniors Minister, and asked for the congregation to voice its affirmations and concerns. On August 31st, Dennis preached, and told his story about deciding to make himself available to this position. On September 7th I announced that we had received strong affirmation and would be commissioning him to this position with prayer during both worship services on September 14th. He will officially begin serving in this capacity mid-October, following a planned time away.

Caring Community

Events. The August 27 "Bowl-A-Rama" was designed to build friendships. It was well attended, and enjoyed by all ages, with participants ranging from age 4 to 82.

242 Groups. Acts 2:42 describes the thriving faith community we want to experience. We are continuing to provide small groups to help with that. Our September 3rd "242 New 4 U" kick off was attended by about 100 persons. There was a full meal, and a time for Mike to explain the plan for small groups, which will be organized around relationships, stages of life, or special interests. Each group will choose its own topic, whether it be a bible study, book study, discussion group, prayer group, etc. We will gather again Wednesday, September 10th, for dessert, discussion, and a time to choose groups.

Christ-Centered Worship

Word. On Sunday, September 7th, I challenged the church to “Love God Love People,” through a simple personal challenge: “Each One Befriend One.”

My next message series is “Truth or Faction: Who’s Right and Why It Matters.” There are so many opinions about spiritual things, and about God. And we have so many factions about who’s right, that it’s hard to know what to believe. It’s tempting to just pick what *feels* best, or just ignore it all together. But what we believe and disbelieve affects how we live, and who we become. So, in this series I’ll be teaching basic doctrine, and its practical implications in each of our lives.

Traditional Music Director. The person I was in conversation with about this position officially declined it this past week. I will continue the search for someone to give musical direction to the traditional worship on Sunday mornings. We are updating our congregational information with MCUSA so that we can advertise the position. In the meantime, a group of people from the modern service worship team has enthusiastically agreed to lead acoustically a couple times a month. I am also in conversation with someone about a seasonal, part-time choir director position.

Compassionate Service

BV Community Builders. As a separate entity, *BV Community Builders* uses volunteers to fix up homes, some in disadvantaged neighborhoods, and others designed to sell at a profit to help support our church’s mission. Work is now underway at a condo on Siesta Key.

Children

Kids Church. The children are enjoying their new Sunday curriculum: *The Gospel Project for Kids*, by Lifeway.

Midweek. Regular Wednesday night programming will resume September 17th, following a three week break for the “Bowl-A-Rama,” “242 New 4 U,” and A/C replacement.

Youth

Wednesday nights. Nori Yoder has been named to Interim Youth Director. She is working with a group of adult volunteers to provide activities, worship, and small group discussion around an *Alpha for Youth* video based curriculum. The group is running about twenty students.

Activities. The youth will be participating in the youth activities of the *Southeast Mennonite Conference* annual meeting being held here at Bahia Vista, October 3-4.

Administration

Facilities. Two more A/C units have gone out, and are being replaced in the Fellowship Hall. Also, as a part of the ongoing maintenance of our facility, it’s time to either replace or remove the faded handicapped parking signs. Since we already have pavement markings, they will likely be removed.

Grateful for good, hard work!

