

# PASTOR'S REPORT TO OVERSEERS

*September 11, 2018—Sarasota Community Church*

## Passion for Ministry, Dispassion for Things

As a church we decided a long time ago that we would have “things.” We built a nice “thing” (our facility) and filled it with nice “things.” There’s nothing wrong with that, nor is the desire to keep those “things” nice — or in our case, to replace old or worn out “things” with newer nice “things.” But we need to keep “things” in perspective. “Things” should serve ministry.

It’s tempting for any of us — especially those of us who are most invested — to become passionate about things, and to lose site of ministry. All the moreso when we believe the things are strategic to effective ministry. That’s not to say that it’s wrong to have a passionate opinion about things. In fact, we *want* those charged with making such decisions to do so with great passion! At the same time however, I am reminded that as we talk about improving our facilities, where there are varied opinions, and rarely right or wrong answers, it is a wonderful opportunity to choose our passion: “Passion for ministry, dispassion for things.” As pastor, I have accepted that challenge myself, and am inviting us all to embrace it.

## Master Plan

We held a Church Family Meeting on September 2 to update the congregation on the recommendation to renovate the auditorium. While a majority of those present indicated enthusiasm about the proposed changes, it was not overwhelmingly so. Nevertheless, there seems to be uniform interest in moving forward with the Master Plan in some capacity. This has not been the case for several years, so we are encouraged to keep the conversation moving.

Not surprisingly, we are hearing differences of opinion about what should get first attention: the auditorium, the restrooms, the parking lot, the lobby. The differences of opinion have caused some distress in the congregation, so we are slowing down the conversation just a bit to put the congregation at ease.

To that end, we are holding a followup Church Family Meeting this Sunday night to update the congregation. With the delay for these meetings, it is logistically impossible to make significant auditorium changes before our winter crowds come, so we are now looking at spring (after Easter, April 21). So we will be taking a reading to see which project the congregation would like to support first.

## Community, Worship, Service

- **Community Groups.** The Community Groups Fair on September 9 was a hit. We are excited about the momentum that is being created here.
- **Worship.** Lindsey Caffelle has volunteered to help me as a worship administrator, assisting with scheduling and charting of songs. We are blessed to have her. We are also continuing our search for a full time Worship Minister who can help pastor our entire congregation (both services) through inspired worship, including the training and leading of volunteer worship leaders. The goal is to continue our “Family Church” environment with regular people leading us in worship. We are determined to move slowly enough to get the right person, and yet prepared to move quickly enough to get the right person. Your prayers are appreciated.
- **Word.** Galen Burkholder, president of Global Disciples, will speak during both services on September 23. Then, they will conduct the first Multiplying Disciples conference here at SCC, that Monday through Thursday. Two dozen pastors from across the nation will attend to learn the Global Disciples approach for our context.

- The **Missions Committee** had its second meeting September 10. Present were Dr. Bob Shamsey, Dennis Bontrager, Nic King, Bekah Nouri, James Read, Roger Shenk, and Gail Zittel. We will be meeting with the Global Disciples representatives Sunday afternoon, September 23.

## Lifestage Ministries

- **Children's Ministry.** Cindy Grant is doing a good job of leading the Children's Ministry. Volunteers are always encouraged.
- **Youth Ministry.** The community group style youth ministry is still new in its implementation, and is being received well by our youth. They are meeting at Nic and Sam King's on Sunday evenings. Some of the youth have also taken it upon themselves to continue meeting on Wednesdays in an unstructured but intentional time of faith friendship.
- **Seniors Ministry.** The ministry team continues to meet and plan programming for seniors. Dennis and I are in ongoing conversation about balancing friendship-building and faith-building events.

## Staff

- **Creative Director.** It's a good thing when we can hire from within. Belinda Jobe has accepted the position vacated by Bonnie Telinger, who is currently training her.
- **Worship Minister.** (See "Worship" above.)

Again, any and all changes we make must be mindful of our mission as a church. I am praying and trusting that if we keep our mission to reach the dechurched and unchurched in Sarasota foremost in our hearts and minds, and together pursue wisdom about it, we will make effective decisions. My hope and prayer continues as it has: May all Sarasota be filled with love, joy, and peace as many come to faith in Jesus Christ. And may Sarasota Community Church be filled to overflowing with the same. Amen.

Thanks for your prayers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis", written in a cursive style.

Sarasota Community Church  
Overseers Minutes  
September 17, 2018 5PM  
Green Room

***“Befriending all with the love of Christ through community, worship and service.”***

**Members Present:** Danny Remchuk (Chair)  
Mike Gervasio Miriam Nauman  
Nic King Dave Polen  
Dave Kniss

**Members Absent:** Karissa Miller (Co-Chair)

**Pastoral Team Present:** Pastor Roger Shenk James Read  
Dennis Bontrager

**Pastoral Team Absent:** Shirley Good

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Danny Remchuk declared the meeting open at 5:02 pm.
2. **Devotional:** Mike Gervasio, Overseer opened with prayer preceded by a short devotion.
3. **Minutes:** Danny Remchuk declared August, 2018 minutes approved as distributed.
4. **Open Floor for Members Comments:** Members Doug and Dawn Graber spoke to the Overseers and challenged them to consider the upcoming Southeast Mennonite Conference delegation vote and congregational input.
5. **New/Unfinished Business:** None
6. **Reports:**
  - a) Pastor Roger Shenk reviewed his monthly report. “Passion for Ministry, Dispassion for Things. All changes we make must be mindful of our mission as a church. I am praying and trusting that if we keep our mission to reach the dechurched and unchurched in Sarasota foremost in our hearts and minds, and together pursue wisdom about it, we will make effective decisions. My hope and prayer continues as it has: May all Sarasota be filled with love, joy, and peace as many come to faith in Jesus Christ. And may Sarasota Community Church be filled to overflowing with the same.” (attached)
  - b) Finance: James Read reported. (attached)

## **7. Committee Reports**

- a) Finance Committee: Dave Polen made a motion to remove the \$230,000 previously approved by the Overseers from a restricted account for auditorium renovation and place it back into unrestricted funds. As there was not a second to the motion, the motion died.
- b) Membership Policy Task Force (None)
- c) Pastor Roger Shenk reported on the Conference Affiliation Task Force: (See recommendation)
- d) Building Fund Committee (verbal)
- e) Safety Task Force (attached): James presented the policy on surveillance. The overseers will read over it for the next month and privately let James know if anything should be changed. James will formally present the policy to the Overseers in October for approval.

**8. Recommendations:** That the Board of Overseers equip the delegates with its opinion about whether Southeast Mennonite Conference should leave Mennonite Church USA. The Board of Overseers gives the suggestion to the voting delegates to vote yes, that Southeast Mennonite Conference should leave MCUSA. M/S/A – Nic King, Dave Kniss, approved unanimously.

**9. Other Business:** (None Scheduled)

**10. Executive Session:** (None Scheduled)

**11. Closing Prayer:** Pastor Roger closed in prayer.

**12. Adjourn:** 6:20 pm

## **Upcoming Events:**

- Coffee with Leaders, September 17, 6:30pm
- Multiplying Disciples Conference, September 24-27
- Southeast Mennonite Conference Annual Meeting, October 5-6, Apopka, FL
- Overseers, Monday October 22, 5pm

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Secretary, Nic King

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Recording Secretary, Danny Remchuk for Catharine Christner.

**If you would like a copy of the attachments listed above, please email Danny Remchuk at [dremchuk327@gmail.com](mailto:dremchuk327@gmail.com)**