

College Mennonite Church
Agenda: Congregational Meeting
Sunday, March 26, 2017, 6:00-7:30 PM, Fellowship Hall



Additional information for action items: see inside

Vision: "A community of Jesus Christ, empowered by the Spirit, experiencing and extending God's love and grace."

Strategic Priorities (adopted April 2016):

- We will embrace diversity and improve our practices related to welcoming and actively including and inviting others into our physical space and spiritual community.
- As CMCers of all ages seek to follow Jesus, we will deepen our faith, strengthen theological understanding – especially of our own Anabaptist traditions – and grow through spiritual practices.
- We will grow in our practice of love, caring and unity, respecting diversity within our congregation and community

1. Welcome & opening hymn & prayer

2. Review of Agenda – Max Mertz

3. Review of minutes from January 22 congregational meeting

4. Daniel Yoder Term Review/Renewal of Term

Daniel Yoder has completed his second term of service on the CMC pastoral team. Church Board has undertaken a review of Daniel's ministry among us. *(See attached summary.)*

Recommended action: College Mennonite Church calls Daniel Yoder to a five-year term of service on the CMC pastoral team, beginning July 1, 2017.

5. Talashia Keim Yoder Term Review/Renewal of Term

Talashia Keim Yoder has completed her second term of service on the CMC pastoral team. Church Board has undertaken a review of Talashia's ministry among us. *(See attached summary.)*

Recommended action: College Mennonite Church calls Talashia Keim Yoder to a five-year term of service on the CMC pastoral team, beginning July 1, 2017.

6. Listening/discerning as a congregation

Building on many earlier activities in recent months, including a congregational forum on March 12 (5 p.m.), consider taking action at this meeting on adopting a Welcome Statement *(See end of this document for proposed statement.)*

7. Other business

8. Adjournment

9. Next meetings:

- a. **April 23, at end of worship service. Short meeting to discern congregational representatives for CMC Board**
- b. **June 11, 6 p.m. Spending plan 2017/18**

Term Renewal Recommendation for Daniel Yoder

Recommendation for action at congregational meeting, March 26, 2017: ***The Church Board unanimously recommends that College Mennonite Church call Daniel Yoder to a five-year term of service on the CMC pastoral team, beginning July 1, 2017.***

Summary of review

Respondents offered broad affirmation of Daniel's ministry, noting more specifically:

- Creativity in developing and leading youth events: convention and service trips
- Creating contexts for nurturing relationships between youth and the congregation
- Developing contexts for faith formation for youth
- Engaging Hispanic/ASL youth and their parents
- Making MYF a safe and welcoming place

Several things Daniel has particularly enjoyed in his ministry at CMC

- Loves College Mennonite Church and our youth
- Senses an continued inner calling to youth ministry
- Especially enjoys planning and leading MYF learning and service trips & conventions
- Developing and leading QABATS—the monthly meetings of Genesis youth, parents and Los Embajadores Sunday School class
- Excited about working at these ideas for the future:
 - a) Developing an entrepreneurial youth ministry (developing ways that youth can find opportunities to earn money within contexts that also promote faith formation)
 - b) Incorporating creation care into youth ministry

Several areas of focus for Daniel if he continues ministry at CMC

- Tapping and empowering volunteers to assist with Genesis and MYF ministries
- Developing ministry that adapts to emerging cultural diversity among youth
- Growing in ability to communicate in Spanish
- Accessing continuing education opportunities commensurate with current needs of his family

May our discernment be enveloped in Christ-like love and care for Daniel and for the congregation as a whole.

Term Renewal Recommendation for Daniel Yoder, continued

Purpose of review

- Bylaws ask that Church Board conduct term reviews for each pastor
- Opportunity for congregation and for Daniel to reflect on his ministry among us during past 5 years
- Opportunity to affirm strengths and growth, opportunity to express concerns
- Opportunity for congregation to consider renewing its call to Daniel for service on the CMC pastoral team
- Opportunity for Daniel to consider whether he continues to feel called to ministry at CMC

How was the review conducted?

- January 17, 2017: Surveys sent to representative members and staff who have worked directly with Daniel in various capacities during his current 5-year term. Public invitation in January 15 church bulletin for any other interested member to receive/complete survey by January 30.
- Surveys asked for feedback on 23 statements related to Daniel's ministry description and 6 narrative questions. Daniel completed a self-review using the same survey.
- On behalf of Board, congregational representative Ron Kennel made an (anonymous) compilation of all responses
- Ron and Daniel's supervisor, Marty Lehman, met with Daniel to discuss review results and Daniel's self-review. These results were also discussed with the Pastoral Team Leader, Phil Waite.
- Daniel, Marty, Phil, and Ron met together with the full Church Board on March 7 to review summary results and discuss with Daniel his ministry at CMC
- Board made recommendation for congregational action
- Note: Daniel's current 5-year term was scheduled to end in December 2016. The congregation took action at its March 13, 2016 meeting to extend the term through June 2017.

Synopsis of Daniel's current ministry description

- Develop and maintain relationships with Genesis and MYF and their parents; providing pastoral care as needed and appropriate.
- Create & communicate a vision for faith formation in the congregation for youth and families.
- Develop a leadership team of teachers, sponsors, investors and mentors to provide overall leadership, curriculum, program direction and integration into the life of the church for Genesis and MYF.
- Give leadership to celebration Sundays.
- Participate in worship leading, prayers, children's time, preaching, funerals, Wednesday night planning, sacred spaces, etc.
- Meet with Discipling Commission

Term Renewal Recommendation for Talashia Keim Yoder

Recommendation for action at congregational meeting, March 26, 2017: ***The Church Board unanimously recommends that College Mennonite Church call Talashia Keim Yoder to a five-year term of service on the CMC pastoral team, beginning July 1, 2017.***

Summary of review

Respondents offered broad affirmation of Talashia's ministry, noting more specifically:

- Handling the shift from working with college age youth to working with children and families with "flexibility, grace, candor, enthusiasm and commitment."
- Her leadership in and passion for family ministry at CMC
- Her leading in worship and children's times
- Makes people feel loved and cared for
- Tries new things
- Demonstrates pastoral call to ministry and shows growth in confidence and in being pastoral

Several things Talashia has particularly enjoyed in her ministry at CMC

- Working with families as a whole to equip them to nurture faith in all of life
- Diversity of life experiences among younger families and their commitment to faith formation for themselves and for their children

Several areas of focus for Talashia if she continues ministry at CMC

- Talashia recently began seminary course work and looks forward to continuing that. (Current enrollment is in the M.A. in Christian Formation program)
- Growing in pastoral care work (for example, has begun assisting with some funerals)
- Keeping pace with ever-changing ministry methods to adequately serve families who are growing in numbers and diversity
- How to balance work and family in ways that model living an unhurried life with Jesus as the center

May our discernment be enveloped in Christ-like love and care for Talashia and for the congregation as a whole.

Term Renewal Recommendation for Talashia Keim Yoder, continued

Purpose of review

- Bylaws ask that Church Board conduct term reviews for each pastor
- Opportunity for congregation and for Talashia to reflect on her ministry among us during past 5 years
- Opportunity to affirm strengths and growth, opportunity to express concerns
- Opportunity for congregation to consider renewing its call to Talashia for service on the CMC pastoral team
- Opportunity for Talashia to consider whether she continues to feel called to ministry at CMC

How was the review conducted?

- January 17, 2017: Surveys sent to representative members and staff who have worked directly with Talashia in various capacities during her current 5-year term. Public invitation in January 15 church bulletin for any other interested member to receive/complete survey by January 30.
- Surveys asked for feedback on 24 statements related to Talashia's ministry description and 5 narrative questions. Talashia completed a self-review using the same survey.
- On behalf of Board, congregational representative Rebecca Sommers made an (anonymous) compilation of all responses
- Rebecca and Talashia's supervisor, Marty Lehman, met with Talashia to discuss review results and Talashia's self-review. These results were also discussed with the Pastoral Team Leader, Phil Waite.
- Talashia, Marty, Phil, and Rebecca met together with the full Church Board on March 7 to review summary results and discuss with Talashia her ministry at CMC
- Board made recommendation for congregational action
- Note: Talashia's current 5-year term was scheduled to end in December 2016. The congregation took action at its March 13, 2016 meeting to extend the term through June 2017.

Synopsis of Talashia's current ministry description

- Create and communicate a vision for faith formation and worship in the congregation with a particular focus on children through grade 5
- Develop and maintain relationships with children and their parents; providing pastoral care as needed and appropriate.
- Equipping families to practice faith at home.
- Participate in worship leading, prayers, pastoral care, funerals, Celebration Sunday planning, Wednesday night planning, etc.
- Provide vision and leadership for children's time and children's Sunday school
- Meet with Discipling Commission

Proposed Welcome Statement for College Mennonite Church

This following statement will be the focus of our listening/discerning time in this congregational meeting. *We anticipate the meeting moving to take action on adoption of this statement. The exact nature of the action continues to be open to the leading of the Spirit through prayer and in discussion with each other.*

English:

We believe that all individuals are created in God's image, and all people, regardless of age, gender, race, citizenship status, abilities, or sexual orientation, are welcome as full participants in the life of our congregation.

Spanish:

Creemos que todo ser humano es creado a imagen de Dios, sin distinción de edad, género, raza, estatus migratorio, aptitudes y orientación sexual; es, por tanto, bienvenido y aceptado como participante activo en la vida de nuestra congregación.

Reminder

Discerning candidates for congregational representatives for our church board

All CMC members are encouraged to submit nominations for congregational representatives to the church board **no later than Sunday morning, March 26**. Check your literature box for a nomination form and details about this discernment process. Additional forms are available in the literature racks. Contact the church office if you would like to receive a nomination form by email. Return nomination forms in the offering plate or to the church office. If you prefer, or are at a distance, nominations can be sent via email to gifts@collegemennonite.org.