

Church Facilitated Small Group Notes

April 9, 2016 Saturday 10:00 AM at Church

Attendees:

Renee Johns

John Vance

Marc Schlegel

Paula Bachman

Sandy Sherman

Leonard Nolt

Jonathon Bowman

Facilitator: Rob Hanson

Back to the Future Comments

Confession of Faith doesn't support LGBT welcoming.

The Confession is a guide and not a mandate

It is a way to say we are a Mennonite Church

Could reword the section about the Confession

What do you most value/appreciate about HPMF?

Mennonite Theology

Anabaptist foundation and connection

Theology

Faith in Action

People living out their faith

People are living out their faith

A community of people who I see trying to live out their faith in various ways

Community

Sense of Commitment - much support and care

The community

Community/Fellowship

Continuing to seek understanding - learning from each other

Intergenerational relationships - what I learn from people of all ages

Openness (this is an adjective for community, theology, and living out faith)

Openness and acceptance of individual life

Acceptance

Friendliness

An openness to explore various questions and ideas - open to various faith journeys

Sunday morning Worship and leadership

Congregation is loving and gentle to pastor

Marc's thoughtful sermons

Our pastor

Worship

What do you want HPMF to be like in 5 years?

Children and Youth Focus

Adults know each kids name

Grow the youth

Children and youth spiritual formation that we are excited about and is life giving for all ages

Continue to improve on Christian Ed/Biblical literacy

Preserve what we have

Preserve same qualities as identified in value/appreciate question

Similar - continue to care for each other

Continue same values

The same

Mostly the same

Perpetuating and reaching out across generations

More young people in leadership

Deepen Community

More fully open and welcoming community - our building being accessible; LGBT inclusion; diversity of backgrounds

Deepening our own relationships together as a community of faith

Improve our listening to each other

Worship Service

Services with faith stories from different and varying members

Praxis (see Renee for definition)

Creating engaging ways of living our faith - faith experiments

A community that encourages and supports all in their efforts/attempts to put their faith in action

When you think about the future at HPMF what are you afraid of losing?

Other Church models - home churches

Small churches can make it hard for newcomers

Numbers of people don't determine success

More options of working together in service

Empowering people in their own missions

Increase points of intergenerational activity

When you think about the future at HPMF what are the things you wish to see changed?

We don't know what change will be needed in the future

Don't want to lose community

Flexible and adaptable organizations are difficult to lead - How do you plan? Challenging and burnout for leadership

If you grow in numbers, how do you maintain community?

Spending resource not in line with our vision and mission

Other users of building could be impacted

N. End Community

The location is an intersection of church and daily life

Part of our theology

April 10, 2016 Sunday 12:30 PM at Church

Attendees:

Lee Honsinger

Charlie Honsinger

Brenda Yoder
Tim Yoder
Leonard Nolt
Janet Buschert
Russ Buschert
David Mathews
Maribeth Mathews
Anne Hausrath
Andrew Chrisman
Marc Schlegel
Karen Nolt
Jim Max
Deb Max
Zach Branam
Andie Blackwood
Paula Bachman
Facilitator: Rob Hanson

What so you most value/appreciate about HPMF?

Accepting Community

Acceptance!
Understanding bad things happen
Accepting
Overall attitude
Sense of community and friendship
Lack of drama
The people, their example, their friendliness, their desire for relationship
Opportunities to interact with others in the church on Sunday AND during the week.
Kind caring people
Wonderful people
We're a team/family we have each other's backs.
Fellowship and support of our community
Supportive community
The levity and sincerity of gatherings
I appreciate the open and loving people here.
That people forgive me and respond to who I am (flexibility)
I appreciate being welcomed and being a part of this church at Hyde Park.

Insightful Reflection

Layered reading of the bible
HPMF doesn't purpose to have all the answers, but helps us understand the questions
A safe place to question and expand spiritual beliefs
I appreciate the modeling and guidance toward acting in faith. We have members who
are such powerful agents of God's message
Well thought out discussions
Stimulating sermons
I appreciate the combination of thought for our focus and passionate for action

Christ Like World View

Belief-----to Action
Peacefulness
Belief structure
Support in encouragement, emphasis on living out peace and justice from faith basis
Group of common beliefs and taking stand in community with social justice issues

Anabaptist values

That we are Mennonite

Global vision

Action...

The low key people and practice, non judgement, open

Pastor

That people walk the walk, practice what they believe and preach

Opportunities outside if church for community in smaller group venues

Joyous Expression

The many oppourtunities to congregate/fellowship together

The variety of music

Children's Sunday School and other activities and children's time

Music

Variety of beautiful music

What do you want HPMF to be in 5 years?

Inclusive growth

More inclusive

Sustainable congregation, multi-aged

Lots of young families with kids and programs for them

Attractive to non-believers and accepting of...

To have a greater presence in the community R/T Peace and Justice

Focused on helping people believe and understand the bible

Enough people for 2 services

More younger folks/families who step up into leadership roles

More children friendly sermons

Ethnic diversity that matches the Mennonite World influence

Mennonite Faith In Action

Marc as pastor

Very similar

Happy, anti-drama

Vibrant, relevant to community

Open to all (accepting and celebrating)

Study of the bible

To continue doing the things we do well: worship service, caring for one another - to recognize the things we need to improve and not get mucked down

Continued emphasis on bringing about God's kingdom on earth through service action and prayer

Lighthouse on issues to the community at large

More sharing and oppourtunities to join each other in service locally

Committed to helping people in need

Engaged with the greater community on issues of peace, justice, reconciliation,

christian witness

To teach our kids and new people to have and practice a christ like life

Very friendly to the environment

Tangible Improvements

A) Physical

New garage and new windows

Accessible bathrooms and elevator

more the same with improved accessibility to church

More accessibility to all people

Future coat helmet hanging space
Still financially strong

b) People

Hospitality group for dealing with funerals etc.
In five years it would be good to look back and see that we are still doing all that we
have discussed today
Remain faithful to beliefs/mission
More options for children's involvement

When you think about the future at HPMF what are you afraid of losing?

Connections with each other as our lives change if church grows and location of church
changes

I am concerned that any growth in numbers will result in a shift from the values that
the congregation currently supports
Softening of views (justice) to try and attract people/growth
A Mennonite church in our community within bike range.
Careful decision making
Spending money in ways not in-line with our values
Becoming too "slick"
No fears- perfect love
Loss of action replacing with dogma
Relationships and sense of community
Clear Cause (don't get sidetracked)
Small community feeling ability to have close relationships
Any of the people...
That somehow we don't incorporate new folks in a way that we lose team/family feel
Marc as pastor
Losing sanctuary
Becoming environmentally unfriendly
Growing Church and connecting with conflict i.e Mennonite Connection, our values
A sense of welcome - Do others feel that?
Active Christian witness in community
(Losing) Our tie to the greater Mennonite church

When you think about the future at HPMF what are the things you wish to see changed?

More open to LGBT
Not a thing!
More places for intergenerational relationship and service
Encouraging new people to find a place to get more involved
Fear of growth
A slightly younger congregation (many, more are the same age)
Our response to LGBT community
More youth
The front door
Chop down sycamore trees
Smoother ways/processes of handling "business" of the church
I would like to see a common space/display where church projects are highlighted
and their progress displayed
More sinks for dishwashers
Barn building outreach
10th and Alturas sidewalk ramp
An easier way to integrate new comers. When do new folks get a mailbox? When do
they become a member of the church?

It's time for video!
Some storming and norming over sharing time
Longer bike rack and need for longer bike rack
More interesting for kinetic learners
Jesus talks a lot about money. I would like more support and encouragement in
examining my personal privilege-white, educated, wealthy American

April 10, 2016 Sunday 7:00-8:30 at Marc's house

Attendees:

Pam Piper-Ruth
Jenna Schlegel-Preheim
Pam Curry
Reed Burkholder
Dan Thompson
Facilitators: Marc and Andie

Back to the Future Comments

Section 1-

Wondering about the presence of the Mennonite Confession of Faith in the document as the contents of this document are not well known. A desire to learn more about this was expressed.

Wondering about different wording regarding a grounding in Mennonite "culture", words such as simplicity, guided by the life and teachings on Jesus.

Wanted to affirm "c" on the list

Really like "a" and an emphasis on "self-select our respective focus".

Section 2-

Really like "a" and an emphasis on "self-select our respective focus".

Section 3-

A. like "become a prophetic voice"

D. why is this here as it has no votes- should this be more of a priority, one vote for no.

What do you most value/appreciate about HPMF?

Anabaptist/Social Responsibility including creation care

A Mennonite focus

Social responsibilities and outreach

Focus on Anabaptism and all that includes

Creation care and peace and justice values and actions

World minded (not just U.S.)

Youth

Youth involvement

Intergenerationalism

Acceptance (esp. to youth- they feel loved!)

Meaningful Worship

Hope filled sermons

A rich hymn and song resource in our 4 song books

Sermons

Variety of worship leaders, song leaders, leadership membership

Lay members leading church services

Community

- Community
- Sense of hospitality and welcoming
- The flow, ambiance, loving feeling on a visceral level
- Relationships
- The bike rack

Openness

- “see how they love one another”
- Non-judgmental
- OPEN to lots of interpretations/places on spectrum of belief
- More accepting of each other and those outside of church

What do you want HPMF to be like in 5 years?

Building & Space

- Solar panels or a share of the solar co-op
- Remodeled bathroom and an elevator
- Accessible (elevator/wheelchair)
- Handicap accessible

The same

- Not a lot different
- Basically the same

Living/Feeling our Faith

- Culture of faith, deepening awareness of world needs & causes.
- Guard against becoming too institutionalized “we’ve always done it that way”
- More visceral
- Maintain Anabaptist focus

Cognizant our words have power

- More metaphors of God
- No longer would we have “male” dominated language in liturgies, songs, scripture reading

Expanding Cultural Diversity

- Multi-cultural, multi-colored people, multi-generations
- Registered on “open and affirming” LGBT website!! OFFICIAL!!

More intergenerational activities

- More intergenerational activities

When you think about the future at HPMF, what are you afraid of losing?

- Sense of community
- Community intimacy
- Our building, our community. I am at HP because it is a small church. I just as soon split than outgrow our building.
- Getting too big (losing intimacy)
- Our Mennonite focus
- Pastor
- Our location at 12th and Eastman
- Independent thinking

When we change pastors- that there'd be a chance we would lose our Anabaptist focus

When you think about the future at HPMF, what are the things you wish to see more changed?

Improving the building maintenance

More emphasis on the needs of creation e.g. oceans, air, other species, water

HP understand that we are implicitly racist, we discriminate- understanding and undoing our racism and oppression

Creative long-term vision for the house next door- a peace and justice mission? To meet a housing need

More cultural/racial diversity

If we are welcoming new people- may need more orientation or mentoring and fostering inclusion

April 12, 2016 Tuesday 7:00PM at Marc's home

Attendees:

John Wargo

Sandy Wargo

Ernie Bachman

Roger Piper-Ruth

Gene Hipskind

Facilitators: Marc Schlegel-Preheim and Paula Bachman

Back to the Future Comments

Overarching theological commitments: Sermon on the Mount? As key guidance, maybe others. Affirmation of these.

d) keep working at this, taking a stand, affirming and we could do better

2) Mission

More emphasis on youth. There has been a growing emphasis to involve and include youth - build on that (also goes with #3)

Building Community Would like to see more of Rake up Boise, Friendship Dinner, CROP Walk intergenerational activities

Some emphasis on more self spiritual care and spiritual development

Couples retreats, Building families and strengths

Some more internal focus along side our outreach, of mission and service

c) Initiatives

Maybe lifting up more of these initiatives and giving them full HPMF support

3) More official "Come as you are" church in terms of LGBT inclusion

What do you most value/appreciate about HPMF?

Our Life Together

I most value the sense of community we have in caring for and supporting each other

People

Community

Fellowship

Fellowship (Family)

Social Involvement

Winter Camp

Winter Camp

Life style challenge

Ministry to Young People
Mentor Program
Youth activities

Location of the church
Location

Anabaptist Faith Development
Anabaptist emphasis (peace, living the teachings of Jesus)
I also highly value the worship experience - singing, prayer, sermon
Pastor
Spiritual growth
Pastor

What do you want Hyde Park to look like in 5 years?

Accessible Building
Accessible physically and spiritually
To have a building that is accessible to all

Talk our walk
Growing in community involvement
To be more public about our involvement
Prominent

Manageable Growth
Growing in numbers
Not too much bigger

Inclusive Acceptance
A shelter from the storm
All inclusive
Age sensitive - across age spectrum
Growing in being multicultural
Known for our love and acceptance
A witness to what kingdom living can be
Growth in openness

When you think of the future of Hyde Park what are you afraid of losing?

Intimacy
The passing down of our rich heritage to the next generations
Connectedness if too much growth
Uniqueness
Vision
Harmony over building

When you think of the future of Hyde Park what do you wish to see changed?

The kitchen a washer and a dryer
Try having a time of silent/personal prayer separate from the sharing of joys and concerns
Worship leaders trained in communication
Worship services having a flow or movement from beginning to end
The use of inclusion language would become more and more natural
Open and comfortable with more diversity

Knowledge of Mennonite history
The accessibility of restrooms and building
Inviting others

April 18, 2016 at Andie's house

Attendees:

Katie Sewell
Kathy Railsback
Beth Landis
Jack Swaim
Pam Catt-Oliason
Facilitators: Marc and Andie

Feedback on Back to the Future Document

Section 1-

Some questions about incorporation of all of the articles of the Confession of Faith specifically the definition of marriage
Suggestion for "we value we are an Anabaptist/Mennonite Church" instead of "a" and "b".
Some clarification was provided as to the choosing of the wording for "aligned with and guided by" rather than agree and affirm
"d"- more we could be doing in the peace realm (locally) such as talking to senators, talking about drones, etc.

Section 2-

Is there a role for a more collective focus?
Still think these are all important
When do I become we?
The "hub" concept is still a great idea

Section 3-

Critical mass for youth programs, collaborate with other youth groups
Staying in the same physical footprint?

What do you most value/appreciate about HPMF?

Faith in Action

Faith in action
Connections with Mennonites/Anabaptists worldwide
The way the total experience (congregation, worship, individuals, program, sermons) pushes me in my spirituality
Peace and justice orientation and actions
Willingness to step out for peace and justice

Open Community

Open to seekers/questioners- not dogmatic
Tolerance- even when we disagree

Internal Relationships

Potlucks
Thoughtful and kind people who live out their beliefs and help each other
We play together too
Willing to help each other
Sense of community
The relationships
Community support/caring

Leadership

- Good sermons
- Supportive pastor
- Congregational wisdom-processes, frankness, reflection, ect.
- Skilled leadership among the congregation
- I like the pastor

What do you want HPMF to be like in 5 years?

Diversity in congregation

- A little bigger
- “Welcoming” congregation- used in the sense of stated, articulate for LGBT (website)
- Welcoming- including, but not limited to, LGBT
- More young families
- Inclusive with ethnic and LGBT members
- Multi-generational
- More diverse- racially, income-wise, age

Growth

- Stronger connection with JV, possible MVS home

How do we be

- Same level of care for each other
- Expand and diffuse the click

Physical environment

- Comfortable and fitting with our use of space
- Refresh physical plant- more open/light

Spiritual Development

- “Stronger” spiritual formation tools- for youth and families
- Small group Bible studies

How are we heard

- Collaborative with other churches/groups (to extend critical mass on critical issues)
- Creation care
- Recognized for the stand we take-visible
- Peace and justice

Worship

- More showcasing of musical talent

When you think about the future at HPMF, what are you afraid of losing?

- Energy- for the work
- Quirkiness
- My mind
- Pastor
- Connection with other Mennonite churches (through theological differences)
- Spirit moving us
- Closeness/community
- Our young families
- Critical mass of youth... and their families
- Intimacy- knowing what’s happening in each other’s lives through e.g. sharing time
- Trouble articulating- fear losing our call to follow Jesus

When you think about the future at HPMF, what are the things you wish to see changed?

Involvement with GAP with MCC
Better institutional memory
Alerting new people to Columbia- sister church
Explore combining with other churches' youth groups
Collaboration with other churches on peace and social justice issues
A church organization plan that facilitates good work and doesn't burn people out
More opportunities for communion
Biblical literacy
Adult ed evenings
The house next door-needs a plan- but I know it's in process
Emphasis on church (liturgical?) calendar
Website
Improving the space downstairs
Should we be doing different things with Columbia?
Open to all and safe for those who are moving on the openness continuum

April 20, 2016 at Rob's house

Attendees:

Rob Hanson
Annette, Hanson
Bonnie Dufty
Pat Casey
Facilitator: Marc

Back to the Future Comments

Affirmation overall for the theological commitments

- a. Do we know what Mennonite Confession says
- b. Affirmation for guidance of "Sermon on the Mount"
- b. This is central
- a.b. These sort of work together to name the importance we see in our "Anabaptist/Mennonite theology." These together help express this.
-These 5 things express our center; we know that we are a place where we are open to people exploring other ideas and areas. And these are our center-point.

2. Overall affirmation for these as points of focus.

- a. Our youth development could continue to be improved and strengthened. Perhaps it needs to be more of a priority in our mission and work.
- b. Expression to have more multi-age opportunities for service and interaction

3. Overall affirmation for these points as well

- d. Perhaps this point should be changed to reflect what we would agree with, rather than a point worded in such a way that it got zero votes
-Should our mission include the positive use of our building in our local community?

We

provide it to be used for justice and life-giving initiatives, but this is not said anywhere in our mission or points of focus

What do you most value/appreciate about HPMF:

Living our faith

The different ways people serve in the community - Christ like influence and good examples

Living Christ's Way: caring for needy in/out of our fellowship with hands, heart, and money

Work in outside community

Our beliefs & values

Peace (for all creation)

Theology: the 'Sermon on the Mt.' theology

Our Fellowship

Openness

General way of pitching in organically with trust

sincerity of people

community

community

open forum for discussion of ideas

The way people in the community support each others missions

What do you want HPMF to look like in five years:

Leadership & Good Continuity

Continuity in leadership to help us follow through on decisions

Welcoming and Affirming in our fellowship

Evaluate our right sense of size

Welcoming to all people

Plan for adding and nurturing people into our community

cross-section of age and race diversity

multigenerational

Deeper Experiential Community

Diverse ways to encourage and develop spiritual growth

Develop a school of ministry with possible acknowledgment certificates: volunteering, leadership, etc.

See parts of our fellowship or a living, communal experimental living place with boarders to increase substance: to mentor youth, lessen footprint, care for each other and land; deepen our relationships

Maintain the positives

Continue to grow in what we have

ditto on existing

What are you afraid of losing:

Pastor

the intimacy of a small community

connectiveness

community

our welcoming spirit

basically, our church: need younger people and families or we will die out.

simplicity

youth

older members (our many leaders are aging in our community)

Things I wish to see changed

- Plan for our current facility
- More small group activities: potlucks, games, discussion groups
- People with more energy than me!
- More communal activities
- Meet with interested members in communal ideas
- small musical groups - choir?
- Positive, joyous, and open view of the future
- New model for youth development in a small church
- fewer hymn books
- more intergenerational activities
- relook at language in our music and written descriptions
- caring for aging; learning about aging
- modeling a “third way” in our polarized society

April 24, 2016 Sunday after Church

Attendees:

- Joy Bowman
- Carole Skinner
- Rick Skinner
- Janice Burkholder
- Lauresta Welty
- Kristin Hasselblad
- Mike Shenk
- Elizabeth Bruno
- Kak Elzinga
- Rachel Goochey
- Alex Goochey

Facilitators: Rob Hanson and Pam Oliason

Back to the Future Comments

What is the Confession of Faith? Not everyone has seen/read it; everyone does not agree with everything in it.

Four part harmony - a Mennonite thing; pushing it too hard during the service disturbs one person; other appreciate it as part of Mennonite character.

Preparing people for missions seems to be missing from Back to the Future.

Sermon on the Mount - Not sure this has been a sermon focus in past year, yet it is a high priority in Back to the Future document.

What do you most value/appreciate about HPMF?

Worship

- Music in worship
- Worship sermons
- Worship - the variety of leader and the freedom

Theology

- Bible based
- Accessible sermons
- Focus on living out faith (scripture)
- Willingness to question things and let others question
- Theological approach: open to doubt, questioning, spiritual journey

Leadership and Mission

- Mission focus
- Example set by others - Marc and Leadership Team
- The messages - always thoughtful and encouraging
- Pastor
- Leadership
- Focus on youth

Community

- Multi-generational
- Community
- Fellowship
- Inspiring people who attend
- Strong community
- Sense of community and support among members
- Support of community
- Fellowship
- Fellowships/relationships
- People/Community/Support
- Community
- Community
- Trusting relationships

Values

- We love nature
- Belonging to/being part of something bigger like MCC sale
- Mennonite values
- Presences of kindness and compassion and building of compassion
- We care about others and are well-informed about issues facing humanity
- A spirit of inclusiveness (making everyone to be a part)
- We work on being inclusive
- When people live collectively-share resources gifts etc. for just simple lives

What do you want HPMF to be like in 5 years?

Capital Improvements

- Building Improvements (art, beauty more presence)
- Replace bathroom floors
- Improve accessibility
- Have an accessible building
- Get a dishwasher
- Sell the house next door and use for money for capital improvements
- Replace windows - more insulation

Inclusivity

- Find ways to make others feel a part of our community
- More consideration of various learning styles
- Accepting of all others
- Our liturgical language will be more inclusive, including the musical language
- Accepting of all others
- More diverse

Church Growth and Community

- Keep a manageable size

Keep focus on service in the community and the world
More opportunities to get to know other members in small groups settings
Opportunities for people to do things together (service, social)
A little bigger congregation- makes for better Sunday School, youth groups, music,
leadership
Maintain our sense of community

When you think about the future at HPMF what are you afraid of losing?

Don't want to lose this building
Community feel if we grow to large
The awesomeness that we are
Becoming focused on a better-better-better mindset
A fear the we will no longer know each person who attends
If Marc and Jenna leave- we and the youth would suffer
Impact on being a part of MCUSA because of LGBT issue
Fear of losing sense of service or community
Fear of losing the sensitivity to the "orphans and widows"
Mennonite identity and Biblical focus
Biblical focus-core values
Sense of community
Sense of community and trusting relationships
Comments on this section:
 Need to find a sense of balance
 We have money to give to missions because we don't have a mortgage

When you think about the future at HPMF what are the things you wish to see changed?

More diversity
A more diverse community
Enough with Post It notes!
Sunday School - kids don't enjoy it now
Prayer time - more focused requests to make it easier to pray
Membership - need more commitment to church
Add on to or reconfigure meeting room to accommodate more people
Love to see more willingness to volunteer with the children and youth
More small group involvement on a regular basis
Sing one old four part harmony hymn at Sunday service - acapella
Something for kids during church service
Want to hang out more with people. More life together
Stronger family links with stronger education
Children's leadership and parents/families in sync
Yes to small groups
More options of allergy friendly foods
More inclusive liturgical language - Gender- see God referred to as female more often
Consider sensitivities to the disabled (ie. References to 'the blind', 'the deaf', 'the lame')

April 24, 2016 High School Sunday School Class

Attendees:
Isabelle Bowman
Facilitator: Rob

What do you most value/appreciate about HPMF?

The people
Love and support from everyone
Community

What do you want HPMF to be like in 5 years?

Welcoming to everyone
Doing things outside of church - youth group, ice cream social

When you think about the future at HPMF what are you afraid of losing?

Sharing and bonding through music
Safeness that we provide

When you think about the future at HPMF what are the things you wish to see changed?

Making the building more accessible to everyone including welcoming to LGBT
Better program for the younger youth