

Witness Commission: June 1, 2022

Present: Jim Hollinger, Sam Epps, Sandra Flanagan, Mandy Hileman, Pam Reist, and Karen Ungemach.

1. **O&M Fund issues** – Treasurer Frank Rhodes met with us to explain how the O&M fund works and how we access it, and how much money is available to us. Witness is allowed to use 4% of the O&M funds for requests not covered in the budget. This is also used to cover educational opportunities for ministers. Recommendations are brought from the commission to the church board for approval. In the past, the commission has had access to 4% of the total fund. But since the congregation set some money aside at a council meeting for the building project, those funds are no longer considered as part of the total. This means that the commission currently has access to much less money to use. This year it would mean we have about \$14,000 above our budget, of which some has already been used. Jim has questioned that idea, wondering if we shouldn't question about O&M funds used for building and not outreach.
2. **Lancaster Pride Festival** – Saturday, June 18, Noon to 6:00PM. Jim shared that volunteers are needed. He described duties that would be needed, setting up tables, mostly to pass out flyers and tattoos. Jim was going to contact the people who helped last year, and possibly send an email to the church board asking for volunteers. Even if no one is able to go, the festival will still get the contribution that we are giving. We will also get some publicity anyway from the social media. Jim asked Pam to announce the need for volunteers on Sunday morning.
3. **Fair Funding for Schools** -- Karen had sent an email about fair funding in education to all the Commission members. We had a discussion about possibly sending that to the entire church as an all church email. Pam may possibly mention this issue as well on Sunday morning. The Pa State Representatives will be voting on this in mid-June. So the goal is to encourage people to contact their representatives now.
4. **SERRV**- Karen asked for some help. She is happy to continue in leadership/ordering, etc, but would like some manual labor to help setting up, packing up, moving boxes, on Sunday mornings. Also, for the weekend of the Disaster Relief Auction, it would be great to have people help to set up, tear down, and help sell items at the stand. She also inquired as to times when the church might be having an activity that setting up a stand to sell SERRV items would be compatible.
5. **Updates on immigrant families.** Sandy shared with the commission about what the current situation is with the families who are struggling locally. Sandy also shared some resources and mentioned several churches who are actively working on housing issues. Jim and Pat Williams have both met with ECHOS and have not gotten far with

them, but we may need to follow up with them more. Jim also mentioned about having one of the churches who are providing houses to possibly do a Sunday School class for us to share with the wider church what their experiences are.

6. **Gun Safety Legislation** -Request from Sandy Garman/Small Group – request for Witness Leadership on writing to Legislators regarding gun safety legislation. We brainstormed some ideas, using the topic for a Sunday School class, possibly have a letter writing time at church, posting an ad from the church on our position, seeing if the denomination is doing anything. Pam mentioned that the youth are providing a breakfast on Jun 26th and that might be a time to have people write letters while they are there.
7. **Fair Exchange:** Beth DeGoede looking for replacement. Beth is aware that having the product in church and available spurs more sales, but is asking to be relieved of that duty. So we need to find a replacement for her to take this over.
8. Next Meeting: July 6, 2022, 7:00 PM via Zoom