



Rainbow Mennonite Church

Worship 9:30am
1444 Southwest Blvd, Kansas City, KS 66103
office@rainbowmennonite.org
www.rainbowmennonite.org

Fellowship Time 10:30am
Robert Kaufman, Pastor
Phone: 913.236.8820
Fax: 913.236.6838

On My Mind . . .

As many of you know, as a direct result of the findings of the Appreciate Inquiry Process completed last year, there is currently a task force examining our church structure and working on coming up with recommendations for making the organization of the church more efficient and effective.

I believe streamlining our structure and organization is important for at least two important reasons. With its unclear lines of responsibility and accountability, our current structure at times makes the decision-making process unnecessarily difficult and time consuming. The scopes of responsibilities of both elected and volunteer committees are often vague. At times they seemingly overlap with other committees, leaving in question who is responsible for what. This, in turn, can leave the members of the committee feeling frustrated and stymied, which sucks the life out of committees in spite of the best intentions of their members. And not having clearly defined lines of responsibility and authority also makes it more difficult for newcomers to know how and where to plug into the life of the community.

And second, I believe our current structure could be prohibiting us as a church and an organization from taking advantage of opportunities for potentially developing new ministries and growth. Especially if they are at all time sensitive, what happens is that the opportunity has passed us by before we can process it and reach a decision.

And that is no way to run a business . . . or a church. While most churches, including Rainbow, rightly do not view themselves as businesses in the usual sense of the word, in today's culture and climate they/we must be as responsive as possible to new opportunities. And our church structure goes a long way in determining just how responsive we can be.

Robert Kaufman

I don't know if you've noticed or not, but redevelopment is finally coming to lower Rosedale. We anticipate that two new businesses will soon be operating directly across the street from the park in space that had been used as storage facilities for many years. In addition to housing the offices and studio of a commercial photographer, the historic Vox Theater (www.voxtheater.com) is being renovated to be a corporate, wedding reception, and other special events venue. And right next door to the theater will be Deco Catering (www.decocateringkc.com), specializing in fresh made from scratch food and committed as much as possible to locally sourced products and all natural flavoring ingredients.

I have met with the owners of both of these businesses and it has been exciting to hear of their dreams and plans for bringing new life and vitality to lower Rosedale. They have assured me that they want to be good neighbors and are eager to talk about ways that their businesses might, in mutually beneficial ways, overlap the mission of the church to create a healthier more thriving neighborhood. And both have received the endorsement and support of the Rosedale Development Association in their ongoing efforts to navigate the city bureaucracy and get their necessary permits.

These are exciting times in Rosedale. Change is on the way and with change comes new opportunity. To paraphrase, "Lord, grant us the courage (and the structure) to embrace what is good for the community, resist what is detrimental to the community, and the wisdom to know the difference!"

And for today, that's what's on my mind.

Robert

Rainbow Mennonite Church Abuse Prevention Policy

Church Council recently adopted an Abuse Prevention Policy. The following is an excerpt from the Introduction section of the policy.

“We realize that despite our strong desire to provide all who Worship, Learn, and Serve at Rainbow Mennonite Church a safe and nurturing environment, churches are places where abuse may occur. Therefore, the Rainbow Mennonite Church establishes this Abuse Prevention Policy and accompanying guidelines to demonstrate our commitment to creating and maintaining a church environment that is safe from abuse, protective of church volunteers and staff, and nurturing for children, youth, and adults.

The following policy and guidelines have been developed in order to reduce the risk of incidents of abuse, to educate ourselves regarding abuse and to develop clear direction for dealing with allegations of abuse. In order to accomplish this, we will follow reasonable safety measures in the selection and recruitment of staff and volunteers; we will implement prudent operational procedures in all programs and events; we will educate our staff and volunteers regarding the use of all appropriate policies and procedures; we will have a clearly defined procedure for reporting a suspected incident of abuse that conforms to the requirements of state law; and we will be prepared to respond to all involved, including the media, if an incident occurs.”

Please read the entire policy, which is available on the church website. Implementation of the policy has just started with the first education session provided during Adult Church School on June 21st. Full implementation is expected by the end of August.

Update on Task Force on Church Structure

The Task Force on Rainbow Mennonite Church Structure continues to meet on a regular basis.

We have moved from the research phase of our project into the phase where we are synthesizing what we have learned so far. We are doing that by looking at the current organizational structure and then looking at some alternative models that organize the existing elements of the structure in different ways. As we do, we are focusing on the relationships that result and identifying a series of questions and issues (collectively referred to as the “parking lot”) that we will need to address as we move forward. We have also begun to identify some key stakeholders (e.g., deacons, moderators, trustees, etc.) with whom we will need to talk further as we progress.

At our most recent meeting, we turned our attention to looking at the general functions that need to be performed in different areas of any given model. These functions include goal setting, coordinating activities, budgeting, communication, finding common ground, and decision making. We have talked or will talk about all of these functions at some length.

Our most recent meetings have been long and productive. We continue to make progress on the charge with which we were entrusted, and we remain confident that we will deliver the promised set of recommendations to Church Council on schedule by the end of September. In the meantime, we continue to welcome any questions, feedback, or input anyone may have. Feel free to share it with any of the task force members (Karen Hostetler, Alan Huxman, Eric Jantzen, Tanya Ortman, or me) in whatever form best suits you.

Thank you!

- Kent Moore

New Member Biographies

Angela Hacker was born and raised in Beatrice, Nebraska where she was a member of First Mennonite Church. She was baptized in that church. Angela attended Bethel College from 1986 to 1988 when she transferred to Lincoln School of Commerce where she graduated with an Associates Degree in Business Administration. She has had a variety of work experiences, including office positions in accounts receivable and payroll. Angela was a travel agent before becoming a mother and a home daycare director. She is currently employed by the Blue Valley Public Schools as a bus driver. Angela is married and has 4 children; Jake, Michael, Austin, and Kendra.

George Melby

What brought you to Rainbow Mennonite Church?

Dr. Joe Duerksen invited me and I decided to check it out. It sounded too good to be true.

Tell me a little about where you came from, geographically and professionally.

Originally from eastern North Dakota, I have a B.A. in Religion and a B.S. in Music Education and History. Professionally, I taught public school music (K – 12) for 25 years and have been a choir director/organize in churches for at least 40 years. I enjoy retirement immensely.

What would you like to say to the congregation?

You have a Christ-centered and Spirit-centered church. I appreciate the genuine love and caring.

Family description and news.

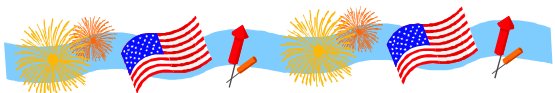
My church is my family.

One unknown fact about you that you can/would like to share with the congregation.

I used to be a pilot for many years for my own enjoyment.

House for Sale

Glenda Campbell is selling her home, built by Alvin and Velma Weaver. Please call 913.831.1049 for more information.



SOAP BOX

My lament about our alphabet soup continues. On June 28, I sat beside a first-time visitor who had been at Church of the Resurrection the Sunday previous. Several mentions in our worship service of "Vser" piqued her curiosity. She was gracious, but our code words (which trip so easily off our tongues) are not courteous to visitors. Speaking plainly might be considered evangelism, welcoming.

-Muriel T. Stackley

PRAYER FROM SAINT DOMINIC

May God the Father who made us, bless us
May God the Son send his healing among us
May God the Holy Spirit move within us and
give us eyes to see with, ears to hear with
and hands that your work might be done.

May we walk and preach the word of God to all.

May the angel of peace watch over us and lead us at last
By God's grace
To the Kingdom.

From *Prayers For Healing*

Edited by Maggie Oman

Living in 2009 (Contributed by Bob Carlson)

You know you're living in 2009 when:

1. You accidentally enter your PIN on the microwave.
 2. You haven't played Solitaire with real cards in years.
 3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.
 4. You email the person who works at the desk next to you.
 5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have email addresses.
 6. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the groceries.
 7. Every commercial on television has a web site at the bottom of the screen.
 8. Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't even have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.
 10. You get up in the morning and go online before getting your coffee.
 11. You start tilting your head sideways to smile. :)
 12. You're reading this and nodding and laughing.
 13. Even worse, you know exactly to whom you'd send this.
 14. You are too busy to notice there was no #9 on this list.
 15. You actually looked back up to check that there wasn't a #9 on this list.
-

God Texts the Commandments (Contributed by Bob Carlson)

By Jamie Quatro

1. no1 b4 me. srsly.
2. dnt wrshp pix/idols.
3. no omg's
4. no wrk on w/end (sat 4 now; sun l8r)
5. pos ok – ur m&d r cool
6. dnt kill ppl
7. :-x only w/ m8
8. dnt steal
9. dnt lie re: bf
10. dnt ogle ur bf's m8. or ox. or dnkey. myob.

M, pls rite on tabs & giv 2 ppl.

ttly, JHWH.

ps. wwjd?

Hint: #5 pos = parents over shoulder