

4/03/2012

Plain City, OH

Since 1-W days the Beachy constituency has continued their interest in peace and service issues. Some years ago a three man committee was put in place to keep abreast of developments in these areas.

In recent years the Conservative Anabaptist Service Program has emerged as a separate entity. CAM bylaws require a 5 man committee to oversee the individual CASP projects. This project naturally fell under the responsibility of the Peace and Service Committee. David L. Miller and David S. King were asked by the committee to serve as CASP members to satisfy CAM's requirements.

We believe it is time to consider making the Peace and Service Committee a five man elected committee and officially combine the two functions.

We are proposing, subject to your approval, that a five man board be formed entitled Peace and Service/CASP to give leadership to a broad field of peace and service issues. The current three man committee is Elmer Miller, Indiana whose term expires this year; Merv Lapp, Pennsylvania whose term expires in 2013; and Tim Miller, Virginia whose term expires in 2014.

We are proposing a five man committee of brethren, each serving a five year term. For the transition, we are suggesting that the current three elected brethren be retained with three year term extensions and David L. and David S. be retained with one and two year terms respectively. David L. Miller's term would expire 2013, David S. King's term in 2014, Elmer Miller's term in 2015, Merv Lapp's in 2016, and Tim Miller's in 2017.

Any questions or concerns about this proposal can be directed to any of the Peace and Service Committee or any member of the Bishop Committee.

You will have opportunity to vote on this proposal during the Thursday business session.

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2011 was a rather "quiet" year on draft issues. There was little change in the government recruitment of personnel for the military. It is highly unlikely that the draft will be reinstated in the near future given the current economy and the ongoing down-sizing of the military. The Selective Service continues to be actively supportive of the CASP program administered by CAM.

We remind you that all young men must register with Selective Service at their 18th birthday. If they do not register they will not be eligible for Conscientious Objector status should there be a draft.

CASP (Conservative Anabaptist Service Program) of the Beachy churches is slowly becoming more established in its operation. A local committee was formed from the churches in Kansas to assume more direct responsibility for the logistics of the CASP project in Hutchinson. This local committee also took responsibility for handling the funds needed for the daily operation of the project.

In 2012, we had 2 terms of service with eight ASWs in each term. The costs for those two terms was ~~13,000~~^{13,000}, including the costs of utilities, food, allowances, mileage reimbursement, etc. Recruitment of volunteers was not as difficult this past year as before. In part, this was due to past volunteer's positive reports of their experience to their peers. The character and work ethic of the volunteers continues to leave a positive witness to the Hutchinson community.

The completed unit house is a much needed improvement. It accommodates eight volunteers and two staff couples. This improvement had a part in attracting an Old Order Amish group from Nappanee, Indiana who staffed a term for the month of March.

We project that next year's expenses will be \$13,000 to \$15,000. We appreciate that the contributions given by churches and individuals leaves us with this year's costs paid in full. We welcome your contributions to this work. We will also need house parents, project leaders, and volunteers for next year. We plan to have two terms in Hutchinson in January and February 2013. We are open to expanding that project to a third term as adequate volunteers and funds present themselves.

We are also prepared to begin considering projects in other locations as there is interest from individual churches or groups of churches willing to pursue developing humanitarian type projects under the oversight of the Peace and Service Committee as is happening in Kansas.

As this project continues and grows, it will bless those who serve and those being served. Your support and prayerful interest in the Kansas CASP project is much appreciated.