Camp Mennoscah 2021-2022 Annual Report

Greetings to you on behalf of Camp Mennoscah staff and board of directors! We continued to see how important God's creation and community is to the faith formation of all ages throughout the 2021-2022 camp year. It brings us great happiness to see campers, families, and groups on campgrounds, fellowshipping and having fun.

2021 & 2022 Summer Youth Camps: What a joy to have campers in 2021! While the size of each camp was reduced, the amount of faith formation and excitement was not. New kayaks and inner tubes were perhaps the most sought after of activities. Camp Mennoscah's 2021 summer youth camps were attended by 203 campers from Western District Conference and 149 from South Central Conference, conferences outside of the Mennonite Church and those without a church for a total of 352. Campers from 12 different states traveled to Camp Mennoscah for a week of camp. Summer youth camps in 2022 are expected to be back to "normal" with typical activities and staying in the cabins.

Retreat Groups: There were 66 groups who visited Camp Mennoscah in 2021, ranging from small family groups to church groups and volunteer days. Larger groups began to visit again, although some churches chose to spend only the day on the grounds, instead of an overnight retreat. Camp Mennoscah served 1085 people from June-December 2021 (compared to 626 in 2020) and 408 people from January-May 2022 (537 in 2021), providing a sacred space to renew relationships.

Financial: Operating revenues in 2021 were $459,115, including a Payroll Protection Program loan. Operating expenses were $362,888, due in part to a reduced staff. Camp Mennoscah has been overwhelmed with the generosity and support of individuals and churches. We are grateful for the abundant generosity of those who attended the Verenike Casserole Fundraisers in 2021 and 2022, which brought in over $15,000 for the two events.

Volunteers and staff: What camp can do is magnified by volunteers! 123 volunteers in 2021 helped set up and take down tents for summer youth camps, put in and take out the dam, and do a variety of office tasks. The 4 weeks from March 15 to April 15 were filled with tree care by SOOP volunteer, Bob King. Three groups of young adults also offered their time and service at camp. These groups consisted of a Mennonite Disaster Service Youth Project, Hesston College's Men's Soccer Team, and the Prairie Chapel Youth Group. The MDS youth worked on building tiny houses for MDS and completed the trail bridge for camp, as well as other tasks. Hesston College's Men's Soccer Team spent several days volunteering as part of their pre-season team-building. Prairie Chapel's youth group deftly removed the old shop from the maintenance shed. In staff news, Tammy Duvanel Unruh accepted the position of Development Director in March 2022. Also in March of 2022, Deborah Dimmick, our office assistant of 6 years, retired and Cherie Bruce accepted the position. Welcome!

Projects: The campgrounds are busy with projects. We are working on getting ready for summer youth camps and the many groups with repairs to the walk-in freezer, the dishwasher and the well for the pool. The Facilities Committee and the board are working diligently on options for the HVAC in the Retreat Center and other new improvements for camp.

Thank you to Western District Conference for supporting the ministry of Camp Mennoscah. Camp continues to be a place of connection—with God, nature, others, and self—and that would not be possible without the prayers, encouragement, volunteer efforts and financial support of Western District Conference and the congregations who are a part of it.

Camp Mennoscah Staff

Olivia Bartel – Executive Director
Tammy Duvanel Unruh—Development Director
Jordan Miller – Campus & Facilities
Cherie Bruce – Office Assistant

Board of Directors

Jill Litwiller – president
Eric Schrag– vice-president
Michelle Shima– secretary
Renetta Gooden--treasurer
Isaac Entz
Joan Entz
Scott Litwiller
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