

Waterford Mennonite Church | August 16, 2020

buzz

Pastor Katie's Four Year Review and Evaluation

In accordance with Waterford Mennonite Church Policy, Ministry Leadership Council (MLC) has requested a committee to prepare for and coordinate the major review carried out for our pastors every four years and which is currently due for Pastor Katie. The purpose of this review is to provide a means of feedback from the congregation that will assist the pastor's own self-evaluation of ministry, with the goal of promoting personal growth and development of pastoral gifts, and strengthening of the ministries of the church as a whole. The emphasis is placed on "building up," "strengthening" and "supporting" for ongoing tasks, and is not tied to a vote on continued employment at Waterford.

With this in mind, everyone in the congregation will have an opportunity to provide their feedback by clicking on the link provided and completing the evaluation form. Various members who have experienced Katie's ministry more closely through their work with her on Ministry Teams and other areas of her pastoral ministry will be invited to receive a more detailed evaluation to fill out. We encourage all these **forms to be returned to Laurina Graber-Ditzler at laurina.graber@gmail.com by August 28** in order for the evaluation to proceed in a timely way. Individual responses will not be shared with Katie, but your name is needed by the Review Committee on your form for the sake of possible clarification of meaning after the fact.

Thank you for contributing to this important process. Please feel free to discuss any individual questions with members of the Review Committee.

— Neil Amstutz, Laurina Graber-Ditzler,
Chad Horning, Amanda Stoltzfus
— Ron Guengerich (Congregational Coach)

Walking and Growing with Jesus in Guatemala

Excerpts from an article by Laurie Oswald Robinson, MMN

When Sophie Miller took a gap year between her sophomore and junior year in college to embark on a study-service term in Guatemala, she received food for mind and heart.

As a result of the many "nutrients" she absorbed, the 21-year-old Miller says she grew in her global perspective and understanding of what it means to follow Jesus far beyond what she had first envisioned when... she embarked on a Mennonite Mission Network-sponsored study and service term at CASAS. It is the Central American Study and Service program at SEMILLA, the Anabaptist seminary in Guatemala City.

The first three months of classroom Spanish and urban cultural education sparked intellectual stimulation....During the last four months, she transitioned from textbooks and head-learning to hearts and relationship-building. That's when she lived with an indigenous host family [Maria Cristal, and her daughter, Amelia Ramírez] and related to their community that had been affected by oppression, she said. She lived with this Tzu'tujil family in Santiago Atitlan/Panabaj. This family belongs to one of the country's 23 groups of Mayan descent.

Her exposure to oppressed people catapulted Miller into understanding how her White, middle-class, Mennonite upbringing in Goshen, Indiana, gave her privileges not shared by others.

"I learned how much the indigenous people in Guatemala have been mistreated and how much

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The *Waterford Buzz* is normally published weekly for members of Waterford Mennonite Church. Items for inclusion should be given to the editor by 5 p.m. Monday preceding publication.

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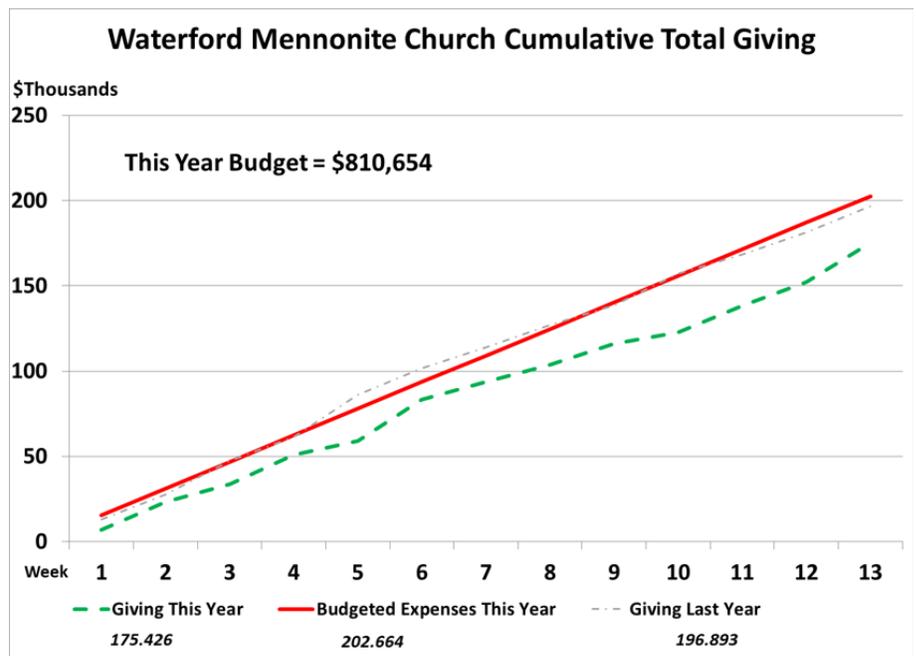
justice is still needed,” Miller said. “I am now looking more critically at similar issues in the United States.”

“I learned that the indigenous groups view land as a gift rather than a profit-maker,” Miller said. “I see this in the United States with companies building on Native lands without consideration for Native Americans. ...Traditionally, Native people have been more connected to the earth and value its resources. Indigenous people and their ideologies can guide us as we seek to create a more environmentally sustainable future.”

While living with the host family, she also bonded with other indigenous people during one of her internship placements at the Utz’K’aslimaal collective. At the turn of the 20th century, a coffee baron stole the piece of land on which the collective sits. The land was sold to wealthy people who privatized the land and turned it into an exclusive country club for the oligarchy.

Today, the collective members are reversing this pattern by encouraging indigenous farmers to run small farming operations, such as growing coffee. These new alliances and collaborations are promoting healing for indigenous people and their land. Miller joined that

Thank you for your generous giving so far this year. At three months into this fiscal year, the end of the first quarter, giving toward the Waterford budget totaled \$175,426 at the end of July. That compares to \$196,893 at the same time a year ago. The YTD expense budget at the end of July is \$202,664.



collaboration by working on the ecological campus.

Miller’s desire upon returning home is to be a part of God’s healing and hope, she said...“I learned how far of a reach God has, and how God has created so many different and beautiful people,” she said. “The stories I heard in Guatemala will always stay with me and will inform the choices I make, ranging from small purchases, like the coffee I buy, to larger decisions.”

“Mission Network taught me that doing missions is about a lot more than bringing people to Jesus and the Bible. It is about being the hands and feet of Jesus while walking alongside people tossed aside by society. I want to follow Jesus like that going forward into my life back home.”

You can read the full article at [Walking and Growing](#).

Thank You

Thank you to the congregation for the many kind words, cards and prayers for the passing of our mother and grandmother. They were especially meaningful during this time of not being able to be together in person. The Wengerd family