

CMCL church council minutes

October 10, 2023

In-person(!) in the Parrot Gallery - the first indoor in-person meeting since March of 2020!

CMCL Church Council Agenda 7:00PM, April 11, 2022 (Zoom)

Present: Cal Esh (Chair), Margaret Krumm, Pauline Zimmerman, Drew Brubaker, Carol Eby-Good, Marian Good, Ken Nissley, Mike Sharp

Absent: none

Guests: Larry Groff (Treasurer, stepping in for Leslie Homer-Cattell while on sabbatical) and Pastor Susan Gasho-Cooke

Opening (Marian) - version of The Lord's Prayer by a Ukrainian Poet

1. Approval of March Minutes
NOTE to remove Ada from the Present list.
ACTION: Marian motions to approve. Ken seconds. All in favor. March minutes are approved.
2. Staff Reports - have not been reviewed yet. They have been circulated and can be reviewed after the meeting.
NOTE: Susan notes that she is delighted to have attended an interview of the Christian ed. candidate (not included in her report)
3. Financial Report
NOTES:
 - Some deposits for March are missing.
 - We are now 78,000 behind from this point last year, but likely only about 50,000 because of aforementioned missing deposits.
 - Giving is "way behind" compared to last year, but Larry notes that last year's giving was quite strong. It would be helpful to compare to years prior to 2021.
 - Overall we are still doing fine.
4. Budget report (missed 3.14)
NOTES:
 - We suggest budgeting \$8000 for fall retreat.
 - There are fewer students at Mennonite colleges, and this is expected to remain lower next year
 - LMS money still exists but is taken care of outside the budget
 - For the remainders, we think it's wise to plug in the last numbers budgeted
5. Facility Use Policy/Worship Seating (approved unanimously via email)
NOTES:
 - Cases are up a bit and Lancaster is back to "High" risk; however, hospitalizations are still very low, and the daily case rate is 4.x. We had

previously said under 50 would be acceptable for resuming in-person worship.

- We agree to continue to monitor the numbers but can feel okay about our current plan for the time being.

- Cal will check in with Leslie in a week or so.

6. Bagels (approved unanimously via email)

NOTES:

- Weather looks favorable. If not raining, outside space is available to allow for more space for unmasking. If raining, we can open windows, open up the Christian ed Wing for more space.

ACTION: Drew moves to allow people to eat and drink in and out with some intentionality around spacing and ventilation. Marian approves. Unanimous approval.

7. MCUSA resolutions

NOTES: Susan joins us to talk about this.

4 resolutions to be discussed.

1. Clarification on MCUSA polity and membership guidelines. Essentially acknowledges that the domination's forbearance resolution and membership guidelines contradict each other and suggests retiring the guidelines.

2. MCUSA for Justice resolution. Advocates for individuals to learn about and work on criminal justice issues.

3. Accessibility resolution. Remove the barriers to belonging in architecture, communications and attitudes that prevent individuals with disabilities from participating in church life.

4. A Resolution for Repentance and Transformation. Acknowledges harms done to the LGBTQIA members of MCUSA. Rescinds section of III of membership guidelines and implements several ideas for engaging the issues, seeking equality for participation of LGBTQIA, and embodying a theology that honors LGBTQIA people and their relationships. We have previously signed on to this. Susan notes that "this is not a compromise document".

- Susan does not feel strongly that we *need* congregational discussions around these resolutions. Several of us agree it would nonetheless be nice to have the discussions if only so the congregation is aware of the resolutions and our stance in contrast to some other congregations in our denomination.

8. Pastoral Search Update: SRC working on a MOU, timing to make public

NOTES:

- Susan adds that she felt good after the interview she was part of.

- This is still confidential out of respect for the candidate's home congregation.

9. Dismantling Racism request

NOTE:

- Dismantling Racism wants to present at a congregational meeting/request funding. Normally there would be a series of meetings to gain understanding of where the congregation is at with regard to items discussed at congregational meetings. Cal will contact Jeff Hawkes to get more details.

10. Congregational Meeting agenda 4/24 Gerald√ Linford√ Dave√ (via zoom), Lynn will send a report

NOTES: 4 issues to present plus financial report.

- financial report will be given by Larry

1. Green Cemetery - Cal will discuss.

NOTES:

- How will we get \$5000 for this? Cal suggests bringing it to the congregational meeting with the idea that those in favor will give towards it (beyond previously planned giving). Larry suggests adding a non-budget line and encouraging people to contribute to it, waiting for the end of the budget year to see if there is surplus available.

2. MCUSA meeting. Pauline is considering discussing the resolutions.

3. Approval of Use of Cash Reserves over 4 mos.... - Larry will discuss. He first brings up 2 points:

a. Should we allow Council to determine other ways to use the money

b. Distribution of funds should be approved by the congregation (with Council recommendation to approve), not just reported to the congregation.

ACTION: Ken motions to approve these revisions. Carol seconds. Motion carries.

4. Project Updates - Dave Lutz will discuss

11. Grant Street Questions (below)

a. What are CMCL's expectations for income from this?

CSH will suggest an appropriate rent, and that will be fine.

b. What is the scope of mgt expected from Chestnut St Housing?

Cal will contact Steve Walter to hear about this.

12. Next Meeting: 7:00 May 9 - Zoom. We agree that Zoom is really convenient. Let's consider outdoor meetings in the summer.

13. SRC Report

- Donna Stoltzfus will be working on getting Safe Church paperwork up to date.

14. Adjourn

ACTION: Drew motions to adjourn. Marian seconds. All in favor. Approved.

(Opening next time: Mike)

(Opening: 6 Pauline, 7 Ken?)