

CMCL Congregational Meeting

August 13, 2023

Convener: Gerald Ressler

Action Item: Leadership slate for Fiscal year September 1, 2023–August 31, 2024: Henry Biedrzycki

1. Leadership Selection Committee, chaired by Henry Biedrzycki, includes Leslie Homer Cattell, Pauline Zimmerman and Sherry Groff.

Proposal: Council recommends adoption of leadership slate as presented (See Attachment 1).

Action: Unanimous approval - 40 votes "in favor of the proposal".

Financial Report: Larry Groff, Treasurer

1. As of July 31, we had income of \$450,000 which was \$3,000 above expenses of about \$447,000. We have a reserve fund of \$186,000. While historically we have significant end of fiscal year contributions in August, Finance Committee is still projecting a deficit of \$20,000 for the fiscal year 2022–2023.

Action Item: Fiscal year September 1, 2023–August 31, 2024 Budget: Larry Groff, Treasurer

2. Proposed budget of \$568,687 shows a projected income of \$518,200. Projected income is determined based on planned giving responses and historical data. Expected rental income is less than last year since IU13 will no longer be renting space.
3. Budgeted expenses are similar to current year with some increase on repair and equipment line. Reparation line of 1% of total budget is a new line, contingent on passing of Reparation action item also on agenda for this meeting. Staff salary shows increases based on MCUSA guidelines for increase of 8%.
4. Budget does show a deficit of \$50,000. Although we do have substantial reserves, it is hoped that with a combination of increased giving and spending less than budgeted we will end the year without a deficit.

Proposal: Council recommends adoption of budget as presented (See Attachment 2).

Action: Budget passed: 46 votes "in favor of the proposal" + 2 votes "although not in favor, will support the proposal".

Action Item: Reparation Action Fund: Marty Kellye, Carol Eby-Good

1. History
 - a. George Floyd and other current events brought us face to face with the reality of systematic racism in the United States.
 - b. CMCL's Dismantling Racism Committee facilitated a six week congregational book study and considered some sort of reparation action as an appropriate next step.
 - c. Committee spent two years of discussion, congregational input, local African American leaders input, conversations with Executive Director of MCUSA, draft proposals, and revisions and presented the attached (Attachment 3) action plan to council.
 - d. Council approved this plan and is bringing it to the congregation for approval.
2. Original idea was to allocate 10% of annual budget for reparations. Proposal shows that amount reduced to 1% for upcoming year as a first step with intent to increase to 10%.
3. If approved, funds will be allocated to a non-budget line. CMCL members will have option to make contributions above their regular giving.
4. Specific proposals for disbursement of these funds will be brought before the congregation. All funds will be distributed locally.
5. Current focus is reparations directed to African American community with possible inclusion of Native Americans later.
6. *Leon Miller* affirmed that reparations are long overdue but raised the concern that adding additional budget lines to a budget that already projects a deficit is not sustainable. *Dennis Clemmer* asked if there is anything in the proposal that binds us to a commitment that may not be sustainable.
7. *Carol Eby-Good* noted that the proposal includes a yearly evaluation as part of budget process.

8. In concluding remarks, *Marty Kelley* reminded us that there are many budget lines that we do not hold up because of possible impact on our overall budget. She suggested we can take a bit of a risk and it is time to start.
9. The following proposal is excerpted from the full Reparation Fund Description (Attachment 3). This proposal is specific to the vote at hand. The remainder of the document outlines ways that the proposal will be carried out by the congregation.

Proposal: Council recommends this proposal: CMCL will contribute 10% of its annual budget to the Reparations Action Fund. This will take place in increments: 1% the first year (2023–24) with goal of increasing by 1% each following year until 10% (Leviticus 27:30) of the budget is reached. The budgeted amount will need to be approved during the budget process each year.

Action: Proposal passed: 40 votes “in favor of the proposal” + 5 votes “although not in favor, will support the proposal”.
NOTE: We lost internet during this vote, so the above reflects only in person votes. Since less than 10 people were voting via Zoom, Gerald Ressler that that number of votes either way would not change the outcome.

Mural Report: Marty Kelley

1. The mural on the Grant Street Building is completed. Artist Salina Almanzar will write a one-page explanation of the mural which will be available at an upcoming dedication that will be scheduled following a Sunday service.

Submitted by Rod Houser

Attach

Attach 1: 23-24 Leadership Slate

Attach 2: 23-24 General Fund Budget

Attach 3: CMCL Reparation Action Fund