

CMCL Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 7:30 pm Grant Street Building

APRIL MINUTES

Present: Mike Sharp (chair), Craig Clearwater, Laurel Martin, Marlene Reiff, David Stallings, Deb VanPelt, Susan Gascho-Cooke (pastor) (Absent: Drew Brubaker, John King, Beth Oberholtzer)

Opening — John (in absentia)

reflections from memorial service of Edgar Stoesz: Philippians 2:12-13

Approval of March minutes (including the yellow highlighted portion)

Action: Marlene Reiff moved, Laurel Martin seconded; approved — unanimous

Financial Reports (action item) — Larry Groff reporting

Current Giving and Expenses (report)

We are 58% through the budget year. The offerings are strong at \$353K which is nearly \$41,000 more than last year same time period. The total expenses \$280 and the income-over expenses: \$84,548.

Action: David Stallings moved, Deb VanPelt; approved — unanimously

2026 Budget (action item)

- committees send in requests for the upcoming year
- finance committee will work up estimates
- Council approves,
- we send out pledge mailer to congregation
- Finance Committee makes budget with giving projections
- Council approves
- Congregational Meeting approves

Budget increase from \$546,000 to \$598,050 at this point

biggest increases:

Reparations (RAFFT) went up 1%-2%

agency grants went up to meet 3%

Action: David Stallings moved, Marlene Reiff seconded; approved unanimously

Congregational Meeting (report item)

April 13: Linford Good will convene; Drew Brubaker run Zoom

Marlene Reiff will take minutes, as long as others look over it

Five agenda items:

1. financial reports
2. budget amendment
3. updated leadership roster

4. Administrative Pastoral search update
5. MCC letter

One suggestion from CMCLer about a grammatical change:

Original:

"A same sex couple left our congregation hurting because of our continued support of MCC, which had rejected their offer to serve reportedly due to their sexual orientation."

Suggested the following to make it more clear:

"A same sex couple left our congregation after MCC rejected their offer to serve reportedly due to their sexual orientation. They expressed concern that our congregation continued to support an exclusionary organization. And so we find ourselves in a difficult spot."

decision: present the letter with grammatical revision (include the original wording)

vote-counting: Mike Sharp, Linford Good, Drew Brubaker, Susan Gascho-Cooke will meet by Zoom ahead of Council to decide how to do vote-counting

Staff Relations Committee (action item)

Staff Reports — (vote to accept)

Action: Marlene Reiff moves, Laurel Martin seconds; approved unanimously

Peace and Justice Committee (report item)

Action: approved the agency grant nominating proposal by email

On-call expectations:

Action: Sent back to SRC for one more revision

Structure Review Committee (action item) — Dave Lutz presenting
went through Proposed Revision page by page

Vote will happen at next meeting when more Council members are present:

- listing subcommittees (p 35) — possibly having 2 lists (one with, one without, etc)
- website listed (perhaps hyperlinks)
- "regular" attenders (p. 32 as an example)

Dave Lutz will make these changes:

- clarified not just "members" but "voting members"
- parallel language about terms for ACC and MCUSA delegates (p. 14)

Next Meeting: Monday, May 19, 7:30PM – Craig Clearwater will provide opening

Adjourn

Action: Craig Clearwater moved, Deb VanPelt seconded; approved unanimously

Notes: Susan Gascho Cooke