

## **CMCL Council Meeting – 7:00 PM, Grant Street Building – December 9, 2025**

**PRESENT:** Hope Sholly, Beth Oberholtzer, Mike Sharp, Deb Van Pelt, Marlene Reiff, John King, Laurel Martin, Craig Clearwater, Lynn Bergey, Susan Gascho-Cooke

**ABSENT:** David Stallings

### **1. Opening (Deb) - candy personality**

### **2. November Financial Reports (Larry)**

- 1/4 through the fiscal year.
- Offerings: \$136,000(26%), which is \$11,000 more than last year at this time.
- Total Income: \$139,000(26%)
- Total Expenses: \$130,215 (23%)
- Current income-over expenses: \$8,600
- budget tracking as expected

John motions to approve the November Financial Reports. Craig seconds. All in favor.

**Action: November Financial Reports approved.**

### **3. Pastoral Search Committee**

-SRC has posted the two new job openings on the CMCL website. (*Associate Pastor of Youth & Young Adult Ministries and Church Administrator*)

The Pastoral Search committee will be breaking off into two committees, and are looking for volunteers to join each one.

- a. **Associate Pastor of Youth and Young Adult Ministries** – Janet Lind is interested in co-chairing the committee, and is looking for someone to share that task.
- b. **Church Administrator** – Carol Eby-Good is willing to chair this committee.

-Names have been suggested as to who can be co-chairs/on the committee. Council to reach out to them.

John motions to approve the list of potential volunteers for both search committees. Lynn

seconds. **Action: Names of suggested candidates to join both search committees approved.**

John motions council members to reach out to different people in the respective groups. Laurel seconds. All in favor. **Action: Council members will reach out to the suggested people.**

### **4. Staff Relations Committee**

- a. December Staff Reports

Beth motions to approve the December Staff Reports. Deb seconds. All in favor.

**Action: December Staff reports approved.**

- b. **Clergy Housing Exclusion Proposal**

The IRS states that a portion of clergy's salary (their housing allowance/expenses) can be considered tax-free income, given amount approval by Church council.

Marlene approves numbers given. Beth seconded.

**ACTION: Council approves numbers given for the Clergy Housing Exclusion expenses.**

**5. ICE Protocol Conversation**

Maren Morgan will reach out to other churches to see what their plans are, in the case of ICE coming to CMCL.

**6. Mennonite Action**

Council received a request from a congregant that CMCL become more involved and engaged with Mennonite Action. We are hoping to include Mennonite Action in part of the upcoming January worship series.

**7. Peace & Justice**

Peace & Justice committee is interested in revisiting how the agency support grants are approached. Can CMCL move from a model of supporting agencies we'd *like* to support, to a model of supporting what the greatest *needs* are in the community? Changing the approach would hopefully have the greatest impact in the community. Peace & Justice will have a time of discernment and conversation. We are hoping David (chair of P&J) can present this in the next Council meeting.

**8. 5 Year Goal Setting**

CMCL staff are compiling responses from table conversations that took place at retreat, and other survey questions asked to the congregation. Staff will review the answers received. We hope to use these responses to establish the new 5 year goals. In January, staff will present Council with compiled responses to the questions that rise to the surface.

**9. Comment from congregant**

A congregant has brought up the issue of clapping during the worship service (specifically, after special music performances and/or sharing time). Council discussed the pros and cons of clapping during the worship service. Council would like Worship committee to weigh in on this topic by asking the question: "There has been discussion about the amount of clapping in the service. Can we look at how applause impacts congregants' worship experience? Does it enhance/diminish the experience?"

Deb motions to convey the above statement to worship. Marlene seconds. All in favor.

**Action: Susan to take this question to the Worship committee.**

**10. Adjourn**

John motions to adjourn the meeting. Beth seconds. All in favor.

**Action: Meeting adjourned.**

Notes by Hope Sholly