

CMCL Council Meeting – January 13th 2026 – 7:00 PM Grant Street Building

PRESENT: Hope Sholly, Mike Sharp, Deb Van Pelt, Laurel Martin, Lynn Bergey, David Stallings, Beth Oberholtzer, Craig Clearwater, Susan Gascho-Cooke

ABSENT: Marlene Reiff, John King

1. Opening - David

2. Finance

a. December Financial Reports - Hope

- 1/3 (33%) way through the year
- Offerings: \$211,000. This is \$10,000 less than last year at this time
- Total income is at 40%
- Overall, total expenses are in line (at 32%)
- All individual expenses are below, except personnel which is just a bit higher at 35%

Beth motions to approve the December Financial Reports. Laurel seconds. All in favor.

Action: December Financial Reports approved.

- b. Fund transfer:** There is a remaining balance of \$1,098.24 in the Lily Grant that Susan received a few years ago. This is from \$1,060.00 collected for the bus trip and a remaining grant balance of \$38.24. The finance committee recommends that the funds be used by Dismantling Racism/Reparations per a recommendation from Susan. If approved, Larry will discuss this with the Dismantling Racism committee.

David motions to accept Susan's proposal to transfer funds. Beth seconds. All in favor.

Action: The remaining balance of the Lily Grant funds will be transferred to the Dismantling Racism/Reparations budget line, upon Larry's conversation with the Dismantling Racism committee.

3. Pastoral Search Committee Update

More individuals have joined the committee to find a hire for an Associate Pastor of Youth and Young Adult Ministries – Janet is co-chair along with Carmalena, with three confirmed recruits from last month, and looking to add one more.

4. Staff Relations Committee

Staff Reports: Council reviewed January staff reports.

Laurel motions to approve the January Staff Reports. Lynn seconds. All in favor.

Action: January Staff Reports approved.

5. Peace & Justice – Agency Support Grants

- Peace & Justice committee is interested in revisiting how the agency support grant procedure is approached. They propose moving 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 would like to survey the congregation (via email announcements & bulletin) to receive feedback about this new direction. Peace & Justice hopes to

take some time during a future Christian Ed. session to take any questions there would be about this process.

Beth motions to approve the P&J committee's suggestion in terms of distribution. Craig Seconds. All in favor. **Action: Peace & Justice to move forward with changing the approach of how agencies are selected.**

6. 5 Year Goal Setting

- Council reviewed 2020-25 goals. Listed below:

1. By offering individuals, families, small groups, and the gathered community fresh ways to nurture Christian spiritual formation and to consider the Bible from an Anabaptist perspective and integrate it into our daily lives
2. By grappling with inequities in our own communities, seeking real life examples of Jesus' alternative worldview, and finding partners with whom we can work towards that reality
3. By providing a fun nurturing environment where diverse people can connect around a shared vision and deepen healthy, caring, and mutual intergenerational relationships

- Council noted that future goals should be more specific, with action steps. There was a suggestion to expand on these three broad goals for the 2025-30 goals with measurable subpoints under each one.
- Council reviewed the *summary of priorities & feedback* document, compiled by Ron. This document included feedback from the congregation about what they'd like to see happen at CMCL in the upcoming years.
- Discussion focused on several items, but especially reimagined worship on Sundays and role of small groups at CMCL.
- Other topics included:
 - connection and importance of attending on Sundays and or small groups to provide sense of community.
 - The role of volunteering by small groups
 - Facility challenges due to smaller size of building
 - Attendance patterns of different generations & new members
 - Sustainability of church activities- is there enough volunteers, funds, and staff to do everything we want to do?
- Council would like to further discuss the 5 year goal setting with Ron.

7. Adjourn

David motions to adjourn the meeting. Deb seconds. All in favor.

Action: Meeting adjourned.

Notes: Hope Sholly

January council minutes unanimously approved via email January 20, 2026.