

CMCL Council Meeting Agenda
December 3, 2014
7 p.m.

Present: John Thomas, Susan Gascho-Cooke, Lori Bergey, Beth Oberholtzer, Andrea Lommen, Lois Martin, Julia Schrock Rosenfeld, Kevin Kautz, Chad Martin, Adam Miller, Lucyann Boll-Borrera

Absent: Cheryl Weber.

1. Opening – moment of silence in lieu of listening to Chris Longenecker’s *Leaving* poem.
2. Call to Order
3. Approval of the October minutes (**Needed change: Lucyann was absent**)
4. Budget report (Phil Weaver)
 - a. 2014 Balance Sheet was distributed (based on mortgage holder reports).
 - i. Grant Street – Borrowed 170,000+ -- paid down to \$129,939.
 - ii. Borrowed 900,000 – Educational Wing – down to \$203,187.
 - iii. Young Adult Endowment Fund Balance is up to \$313,000.
 - b. 2015 Budget:
 - i. Presently at 22% spending of projected giving.
 - ii. Spending - \$16,000 more than taken in; highest percentage (39%) for CMCL (much of it Black Rock Retreat expenditure); others around 23-24% along in year of spending.
 - iii. Missed in Budget: Budget for ISP will be overshot by about \$900; Chad and Susan’s convention travel and expenses (\$3,000).
 - iv. Non-Budget Item Summary: MOOS and YAEF are 2 largest expenses. MOOS – still have about \$3,900 in budget; YAEF is covered (negative balance of \$43).
 - v. We presently have \$43,000 in checking account; \$5,600 in CD, \$73,000 in Money Market—total cash of \$119,000.
 - vi. YAEF Monies are simply pulled out of endowment and directly distributed to youth—really not in budget. Formula is a given percentage—3-6%, give or take.
5. There was discussion about the timing of budget planning. Rod sends out budget planning requests in April or May; finance committee meets and draws up preliminary budget, then council votes on it.
 - a. Phil will work on a timeline of budget planning.
 - b. Chad suggested that council also draft a preliminary budget, taking into account extraneous budgetary requests, such as facilities expenditures or “orphan” requests (non-committee budget items).
 - c. Motion was made, seconded, and approved that budget be amended to include additional ISP expenses and convention travel/expenses for Chad and Susan.
6. Old Business:
 - A. Structural Subcommittee reports
Kevin, Beth, Andrea:
Beth: Structure Planning Subcommittee—identified things structure needs to achieve and goals that need to be addressed. Volunteer identification and decision-making power, responsibility, clarity of pastoral roles, achievable amounts of work, all need to be clearly identified. Structure needs to be adaptable, focusing energy on core values. Meeting in another 2 weeks with another congregation for input.
Andrea: Decision-making—designate the person to make the final decision.
Possible Goals for CMCL—presented council with list of goals that could be presented at congregational meeting in February 2015. Discussion ensued as to the number/quantity of goals to focus on, understanding of course, that focusing on some does not mean ignoring others. Discussion regarding what voices are heard at congregational meetings. Perhaps people could vote for goals (a la retreat—12 scriptures), based on energy or passion. Color-coding might be a way to go, and might create energy at congregational meeting. Another option would be “standing on a continuum” of importance of goals.
Kevin:
 1. Not presently working on giving feedback to give to volunteers.
 2. Community engagement database: Kevin will condense the ideas. We plan to elicit information via person-to-person engagement, not questionnaire. Need to draft questions, and then test the questions in small group. Once questions are tested, will present to council. Noted that questions should not elicit confidential information, or information that causes someone to feel “unsafe.” Hope to present questions at January 16, 2015 meeting with small group contacts, clarifying what are appropriate questions to ask.
 - B. Assessment presentation Adult Chr. Ed.
February 22, 2015 – Greg will chair. He would like as many council members, as possible, to be present.
7. New Business:
 - A. Revival of the Parrot Newsletter:

- a. Beth distributed a template for a future *Parrot Newsletter* (hard copy newsletter). Met with Rod and Levina; Beth will do layout and design. Rachel will be office contact and will provide regular calendar and other information.
 - b. Beth will solicit articles from people. Focus will be on Volunteers, rather than new attenders, or old attenders.
 - c. Regular Columns on stewardship, parenting, mindfulness/spirituality.
 - d. There will be advisory committee—Susan and Julia to review content, if any questions regarding appropriateness.
 - e. Cross-pollination between on-line blog and *Parrot*.
 - f. Beth hopes to do minimal editing; rather, she sees herself as “organizer”.
 - g. If council members have suggestions for persons to be interviewed, please let Beth know.
 - h. There could be section editors: Entertainment; classifieds; etc.
 - i. Hoping for monthly issues. First issue to be printed; then conversation regarding on-line copies v. paper copies. Pdf.s can be distributed via e-mail.
 - j. Calendar of Events will be included.
 - k. Length of articles to depend on submissions.
 - l. Beth used Lynn Sommer’s fraktur parrot for headline. Thinking of soliciting artists to create future parrots. Pdf.s can be in color; discussion regarding cost of color copying.
 - m. Kevin pointed out stained glass tree that grew out of the tree logo; logo could be part of newsletter.
 - n. January 2015 may be first issue of *Parrot*.
 - o. There was discussion regarding appropriateness of classified section. Depends on someone volunteering to be classified editor. Council may give guidelines of appropriateness. *Parrot* would be better venue for classifieds than bulletin; could remove “classifieds” from bulletin.
 - p. Editors have prerogative of “editing”.
- B. Council Action on the Child Safety Policy revisions.
- a. Susan handed out policy with color-coded changes, as well as document drafted by Chris Hoover Seidel.
 - b. ADA compliance was named as future goal.
 - c. 4 changes—
 - i. complying with new legal requirements include expanded definition of child abuse;
 - ii. changes to mandated reporting (all child and youth volunteers will be mandated reporters as of 1/1/2015).
 - iii. New legal requirement of added documentation requirements; greater need for documentation and keeping records for very extended periods of time (up to 50 years).
 - iv. Policy burden of responsibility is now transferred to stand-alone child safety subcommittee.
 - d. There will be a cheat sheet on procedures for mandated reporting;
 - e. Subcommittee members may have access to documentation; members of subcommittee may have extended terms. Chris Hoover Seidel does continue to work closely with subcommittee.
 - f. Still need to ask Don Hess to review policy update from a legal standpoint.
 - g. Susan asked council members to be extra supportive of volunteers regarding documentation needs regarding child safety.
 - h. There may be some volunteers that are not volunteering due to paperwork requirements, but it is important. Fishbowl is the largest need. Chris is still in conversation with some persons who need to update their paperwork.
- C. Council moved, seconded and affirmed approving changes to Child Safety Policy.
- D. Resolution on Israel/Palestine Issues—received from Tim Seidel.
- a. Julia sent council the information via e-mail before this meeting. Tim is hoping to have resolution ready by January 15, 2015.
 - b. Discussion regarding submitting to congregation for feedback—could be presented at January 11, 2015 congregational meeting.
 - c. Council could send out an e-mail to congregation with pdf for congregation to review before congregational meeting.
 - d. Discussion ensued regarding expectations from Mennonite Church USA regarding implementation of this resolution, if CMCL agrees to support resolution.
 - e. Discussion regarding the term “sinful” included in resolution (taken from Kairos documents, 2007 and 2009). Council could suggest dropping the “sinful” word. Comparison of language used regarding militarism; immigration—is this language that we use to describe *ourselves*? Is this a consistent usage by MCUSA. It is not a CMCL usage.
 - f. Congregations signing on to resolutions increases the weight assigned to them by MCUSA’s resolutions committee, and it increases the chance that a resolution will be carried to the floor of delegates for voting. There are potential economic practices that may be changed (Everence; MCUSA Financing), etc. that could be changed based on such a resolution.
 - g. Selective language regarding prayer for is interesting choice of language.

- h. Consider applying “Kevin Principle” – eliminate words that are stumbling blocks.
- E. Chad will contact MennoPIN (Tim Seidel) regarding council and CMCL’s hesitation regarding certain language used in resolution, and will report back before sharing this with congregation at congregational meeting in January 2015.
- F. January 11, 2015 Congregational Meeting Agenda:
 - a. Structural Committee reports and goals;
 - b. Resolution (MennoPIN);
 - c. Be ready to list process of and respond to questions regarding history of Youth Pastor discussion and related council action report; (include in *Parrot* newsletter before congregational meeting?); acknowledge that discussion as part of larger structure work council is doing;
 - d. Present a list of ongoing work council is doing.
 - e. Susan will summarize the Youth Pastor question response/plan, and could be put into *Parrot* for January 2015.
- G. Discussion regarding items that come before council ensued (MOOS; Parrot Gallery; Creation Care; Finances). Feedback forms for committees could be presented quarterly at council. Office will solicit feedback and compile for council meetings. Since Program Commission is defunct, individual committees would appreciate reports/feedback from other committees, as well. (Include Staff Relations?) (Jerry Miller is now chairing MOOS)
 - a. Shalom Project – Randy Newswanger will come to a council meeting to present this. Julia has sent the initial proposal to council via e-mail.
 - b. Pastor’s Housing Allowance – must be listed in council’s minutes annually. We follow the Mennonite Church USA guidelines: up to 40% for Susan, and up to 50% for Chad. Council moved, seconded and affirmed. Discussion regarding tax implications of pastoral housing allowances.
- H. Pastor’s report: **Susan**
 - a. Experimenting with on-line ways for people to sign up/volunteer;
 - b. 13 Scriptures project will be discussed next Sunday as part of intergenerational Adult Ed, and will be our lectionary for late-Winter, Spring (with exception of Lent) 2015.
 - c. Susan went to Fabulous, Fierce and Sacred event in Chicago (BMC-sponsored). Good inspiration for more nuanced ways of being welcoming. 110 participants; 9 of them former or current CMCLers—CMCL is significant voice in our denomination regarding LGBTQ.
 - d. Thinking about putting up bulletin board with physical pictures of attenders in Parrot Gallery—to help us “know and love” each other.
 - e. Chad participated in local transgender remembrance event, at St. Peter’s UCC.
 - f. Anti-racism issue big personally for Susan this year. Important to find ways to filter news, how to be neighbors to each other. Susan handed out Damascus Road resource on becoming an antiracist church/institution.
 - g. Christmas pageant returning this year in more of a traditional storytelling mode. Next few weeks will be very busy with holiday events.
- 8. Adjournment at 9 p.m.
- 9. Next meeting **January 28, 2015**