

**Congregational Meeting**  
*Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster*  
January 11, 2015

Facilitator: Dennis Clemmer

1. **Opening**—Chad led prayer
2. **Structural Revision Review**—(See attachment: CMCL structural revision work in process) Beth Oberholtzer introduced attached document indicating that diagram on left side of page is an attempt to represent our organization as it is and the diagrams on the right side represent two models being reviewed by council. Greg Newswanger continued the presentation by further explaining the two models and giving opportunity for questions and discussion.
  - a. CMCL has grown considerably since 1987 and structure that has served us well in the past needs updating to reflect a changing congregation. In particular, there is lack of clarity in various areas of who or what group is ultimately responsible for decision-making.
  - b. Seattle Mennonite congregation uses model represented in lower right of handout, Greg's general opinion is that this model does not have much to offer to CMCL.
  - c. Model in upper right comes from Berkey Avenue Mennonite congregation. This model is consistent with more traditional non-profit organization models and has more to offer to CMCL. Berkey Avenue is a pastor focused congregation which is the way CMCL attenders identify according to the assessment used last year.

Discussion

- d. Greg responded to many different questions regarding spiritual leadership, role of professional staff, lines of communication, and decision-making responsibilities of professional staff as compared with committees and council. Greg also responded to questions about how our current structure would be modified to fit the Berkey Avenue model.
  - e. Council chair, Julia Schrock Rosenfeld, clarified that the meeting was planned to be an informational meeting to provide transparency for the process that council is pursuing toward the goal of revising our structural document. Council will use unedited notes taken at the meeting for their continued work. Unedited notes are attached.
3. **Council Goal Setting Committee Report**—Andrea Lommen reported that council is identifying long term (5 year) goals by using results from last year's congregational survey, various church documents, vision prayer etc. Council will share this list with the congregation and invite additional goals for consideration. After these goals are articulated, council will prioritize the list and suggest how the goals can be realized.
4. **CMCL Community Engagement Report**—Kevin Kautz reported council's thinking about how attenders at CMCL can better communicate with each other—perhaps along the lines of a CMCL "private Facebook." How can individuals learn about others for possible connection based on mutual or similar interests? Kevin and his subcommittee propose a "known and loved database" with information about individual attenders that could be shared with others.
5. **Resolution: Mennonite Church USA Statement on Israel-Palestine**—The attached resolution will be brought before this summer's MCUSA conference if it is supported by enough congregations. After discussion and some clarification of the document the resolution was affirmed.
6. **Closing Concluding Statements from the Floor**
  - a. We are grateful for the work of council and are particularly affirm council's work toward how we can streamline the way we operate.

- b. We wish a larger percentage of CMCL attenders could be involved in meetings like this. Perhaps a different time could be used to schedule congregational meetings.
- c. Question: What progress has been made on youth leadership position? Nothing has really changed from previous reports. Money has not been budgeted for the position but the position is still on the table for consideration. Chad and Chris are working on other ways of addressing needs in the interim.
- d. We applaud the revival of the Parrot newsletter.
- e. Demolition permits for the Grant Street building have been obtained and demolition should start soon. Paving will be done after the return of warmer weather. Neighbors are generally supportive of our plans for the parking lot and building.
- f. Council will schedule another session for review of the congregational survey that was conducted last year.

7. **Closing**—Anne Sensenig led a closing song.

*Recorded by Rod Houser*