

**CMCL Church Council  
Minutes  
February 1, 2018**

**Present:** David Lutz, Sue Stoesz, Jim Spicher, Carol Eby-Good, Katy Heinzl, Larry Groff, Cynthia Stayrook, Sarah Shirk

**Absent:** Cal Esh, Susan Gascho-Cooke

- 1) **Opening – Sue Stoesz**-Sue read us a poem about calm and quiet from *Celtic Meditations*.
- 2) **Approval of January Minutes**-Minutes were approved as written.
- 3) **Approve Structure doc for congregational meeting**-Dave Lutz
  - a) The definition for regular attender was added to the structure document;
  - b) Revision provisions were also defined.
  - c) Removed Creation Care Committee.
  - d) Council decided to present a red-lined version of the updated structural document to the congregation at the next congregational meeting.
  - e) Structure Committee will send questions to council for their decision-making.
  - f) Council approved of the structural document as it is now presented.
- 4) **Financial Report—**
  - a) The cash on hand is pretty good (\$218,000—there were several large contributions/deposits made in January, 2018).
  - b) Summary: Year-to-date giving we are \$50,000 ahead of 2016-17. We are 42% into the year, but have met 59% of our budget.
  - c) At this point we have paid out 37% of our budget for the CMCL community.
  - d) Personnel expenses are low due to having budgeted for an administrative pastor, whom we have not yet hired.
- 5) **Pastor Reports**-Larry read us Susan's and Malinda's pastors' reports, due to her absence due to sickness.
- 6) **Staff Relations Report**-
  - a) Job Description for Office Manager-Rod Houser is retiring and structure committee has revamped the office position to be a one-person, ¾-time position.
- 7) **Leadership Selection Committee**-Sue reported that she continues to recruit a new person for the 2018-19 Leadership Committee. The present committee members are eager to begin the search process this month. Sue will continue to report back to council regarding the progress of the Leadership Selection Committee.
- 8) **Pastor Search Committee Report**-Katy reported that the committee has received a few recent inquiries for the position that the committee feels excited about. Advertising has been delayed and will happen in February.
- 9) **Facilities Guidelines Update**-Cynthia continues to work on revising the guidelines.

- 10) **Council's role in convening Program Committee**-Council will work on pulling together meetings of committee chairpersons, so that when the administrative pastor comes on board, he/she can take up that task. Larry will work on setting up quarterly or every 4-months' meetings—the next meeting to be planned for May. The administrative pastor will be part of Program Committee and the Pastoral Team.
- 11) **Review One-Service status**-There was about 70% support for continuing the one worship service. 91 households responded to the survey. One service versus 2 services will be revisited when the number of people attending worship creates a need for more than 1 service.
- 12) **Proposal for absentee ballots**-Katy reported that:
  - a) There was a request that absentee ballots be available, due to the low attendance at congregational meeting. Voting and decision making at congregational meetings in recent years has been less than 20% representation of members.
  - b) She communicated with East Chestnut Street, James Street and Blossom Hill regarding their practices with absentee ballots.
  - c) James Street's guidelines require a 2-week notice of decisions to be made; paper ballots are distributed and need to be returned at least 2 days before the congregational meeting. This policy has increased the number of persons voting. All ballots must be signed, and can only be paper, signed, ballots.
  - d) There was discussion of the absentee ballot proposal brought to council by Katy. This proposal would include a change to all paper, signed, ballots at the congregational meetings, rather than voting by show of hands.
  - e) Katy will edit the proposal she brought to council and then send it to council members. There will be information given at congregational meeting regarding this process.
- 13) **Set congregational meeting date**-The next congregational meeting will be facilitated by a shorter worship service, an additional coffee/snack time, and childcare. Council proposes that the next congregational meeting be on March 11 or March 18. Larry will discuss these possible dates with Susan. The congregational meeting will discuss the facilities budget. There may need to be a recap of the ground rules for speaking at congregational meeting, and it would be good to display the voting options either on paper or on the sanctuary screen.
- 14) **New Scholarship Options at Lancaster Mennonite**-In the past, CMCL contributed \$1,000 per year and each of our Lancaster Mennonite students got a \$200 discount on tuition.
  - a) LMS has a multi-teared scholarship approach, and we've decided to stick with our current giving model of \$1000, regardless of how many CMCL children attend LMS.
  - b) One proposal is for parents to get together and do fundraising, which could then be given to CMCL's general fund. (It is illegal to designate a CMCL fund for school funding).
  - c) There was discussion on CMCL's inability to support college students as well as high school students. Council decided to stick with its previous practice of giving \$1,000 per year.
- 15) **Other Business**-None.
- 16) **Next Meeting – March 1, 2018.**
- 17) **Opening at next meeting**-Jim Spicher.