

University Mennonite Church Business Meeting
February 26, 2017, 11:15 a.m.
Pending Congregational Approval

Attendance: Karl & Evelyn Bartsch, Ebenezer Berhanu, Carolyn Brubaker, Rodney Brubaker, Roy & Hope Brubaker, Tom & Kris Charles, Rosita Derstine, Marv & Brenda Friesen, Alison & Jeremy Gernand, Leland Glenna, Marvin Hall, Mark Hoover, Gloria Horst Rosenberger, Dale & Becky Kephart, Nel Kopp, Molly & Hal Kunkel, Fidele & Leah Lumeya, Elaine Mercer, Bart Moyer, Fran Osseo-Asare, Esther Prins, Karen Rath, Jim Rosenberger, Kathleen & Rick Stehouwer, Joel & Krista Weidner, Meredith & Ben Wideman, Leah Witzig

Karen opened with a reading from Philippians 1:1-2 and prayer.

Approval of November 20, Meeting Minutes – Several corrections were pointed out, including an unfinished sentence (discussion on bylaws changes), Fran's name was misspelled, Leah was not listed as attending. A motion was made to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and passed.

Chair Report, Karen Rath (report on web site) – no verbal report was provided.

Pastor Report, Marv Friesen (report on web site) - Marv mentioned that the leadership team has discussed the physical arrangement of chairs for our congregational meetings and the concern that we are all facing forward. The leadership team is recommending that we remove the first two pews and try bringing up chairs and test a format that would allow more of a circle configuration.

Elders Report – There was not Elders report on the web site and Tim Derstine was not present to verbally report.

Finance Committee/Treasurer's Reports, Jim Rosenberger (reports on web site) – Jim mentioned that the treasurer's report provides an overview of the three financial reports (balance sheet, income and expense, and income and expense by class).

Jim provided a quick review of the reports. He noted that both income and expenditures for the budget are generally on track. Specific mention was made of the following:

- Review of Ten Thousand Villages craft sale income and expense
- Noted shortfall of \$3,445 in contributions towards Camp Hebron
- Review of restricted contributions
- Review of balance sheet – total current assets of \$141,011
- Review of income and expense vs. budget
 - Total income to date are \$173,651
 - Total expenses to date are \$142,302

3rd Way Collective Report, Ben Wideman (report on web site) – Ben mentioned that he is continuing to be touched by the way the community reaches out to the ministry. A recent example was the contact from the coalition of graduate students who are seeking to unionize. The ministry has a large reach even though we don't have a core of students attending events.

3rd Way Collective Decision for Year Four, Joel Weidner (report on web site) – Joel reviewed the proposal that outlined the proposed decision making procedure to fund 3rd Way Collective for a fourth year. The committee is proposing that we seek pledges for the 2017-2018 church fiscal budget over the next two weeks. A total of \$214,000 budget pledges will be required to continue a full-time position for 3rd Way Collective in the fall. Several questions were asked about the proposal.

- Where did 54 pledges and amounts come from in the pledge model? Jim Rosenberger responded that this was just an example of how a congregation of our size might contribute to support the proposed budget.
- Does the proposal include outside funding? Joel clarified that we anticipate some outside funding (this current year we had about \$15,000), but we are not anticipating any new major sources of outside income.
- What will happen if the pledge goal is not met? Joel responded that the committee will need to regroup and consider alternatives to a full-time position for the ministry.
- What happens if people do not make good on pledges? Joel responded that we can only go on faith with the information that individuals provide.
- What is the breakdown for the ministry? Joel responded that the total 3rd Way collective ministry will cost about \$89,000 in 2017-2018. About \$84,000 of that is for payroll and related benefits (including health insurance) and \$5,000 is for programing. The \$89,000 is approximately 34% of the total estimated church budget of \$259,302.
- Are we pledging to support the ministry as it is, or with changes? Joel responded that we were currently not anticipating radical changes, but that we are always open to input and the advisory committee is open to new members.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to proceed with the proposed decision model.

By-laws Changes, Karen Rath (report on web site) – Karen mentioned that the one bylaws change regarding congregational decision making was reconsidered after the last discussion. The group discussed the remaining recommended change on the language around congregational vice chair becoming chair in year two. The following comments were made.

- Comment in favor of going back to old model, based on former board experience in a different organization.
- Comment that if we do make the recommended change we will need to pay more attention to documentation and institutional memory to help the new person step into the role. There was general affirmation of how important this is.
- Comment that it does not matter which model we choose, the underlying issue is that we have very few persons willing to serve in the role of congregational chair.

Ten Thousand Villages Update, Joel Weidner (report on web site) – Joel gave a brief update on the progress of the Ten Thousand Villages non-profit. The non-profit now has its 501(3)(c) charitable organization status from the IRS. Based on the motion acted on in November, the church can now transfer the designated funds and inventory to the new non-profit. There was a question about how much additional money is needed to be eligible for the matching grant from MCC. We need \$50,000 to qualify for the new store matching grant and have raised \$21,000 to-date.

Ghana Report, Fran Osseo-Asare – Fran gave a quick update on the Ghana Partnership that included the following:

- Thomas Oduro still working on efforts to have his son stay in US for his education, but will likely be unsuccessful.
- The seminary is still struggling with issue with outdated software.
- There are no plans, as of now, to have a speaker from the school at UMC this year.

The **Worship** and **Fellowship** reports are on the web site, but no verbal report was made.

Evelyn Bartch led the group in one verse from #396 The work is thine, O Christ

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Weidner, Secretary

Pending Approval