

University Mennonite Church Business Meeting

May 21, 2017, 6:30 p.m.

Pending Congregational Approval

Attendance: Karl & Evelyn Bartsch, Karen Brandes, Carolyn Brubaker, Rodney Brubaker, Tim & Rosita Derstine, Joyce & Marvin Hall, Gloria Horst Rosenberger, Dale & Becky Kephart, Nel Kopp, Molly Kunkel, Fidele & Leah Lumeya, Rogers & Paulette McLane, Elaine Mercer, Fran & Osseo-Asare, Jim Pierce, Karen Rath, Jim Rosenberger, Evelyn Stauffer, Kathleen & Rick Stehouwer, Joel & Krista Weidner, Leah Witzig, Terry Yoder

Opening - Karen Rath opened the meeting with a reading from 1 John 4 and prayer

Approval of February 26 Meeting Minutes - Jim Rosenberger moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

Reports – Karen noted that a number of reports were posted on the web site (see list below) and asked for anyone to highlight details as needed.

Chair's Report – Karen Rath

Pastor's Report – Marv Friesen

Elders Report – Tim Derstine

3rd Way Collective Campus Ministry Report – Ben Wideman

Treasurer's Report – Jim Rosenberger

Balance Sheet – Jim Rosenberger

Income & Expense vs. Budget – Jim Rosenberger

Income & Expense by Class – Jim Rosenberger

Pledge Thermometer – Jim Rosenberger

Fellowship Committee Report – Elaine Mercer

Worship Committee Report – Gloria Horst Rosenberger

Ghana Partnership Committee Report – Fran Osseo-Asare

Financial Records Review – Terry Yoder

Gift Discernment of Church Positions for the 2017-2018 Year

(beginning September 1, 2017)

- Ballot voting was held for elder and Joel Weidner was elected as elder
- Ballot voting was held for congregational chair and Karen Rath was elected as chair

Volunteers for other positions and volunteer pools were reviewed with various changes made to the initial list presented by Karen Rath.

- The adult Sunday School group could use an additional volunteer.
- The Ten Thousand Villages sale committee was changed to a representative (Joel Weidner) due to the formation of the new non-profit that will manage future sales.

- Bethany Spicher Schonberg indicated that additional Sunday School teachers and substitutes were needed.
- Fran Osseo Asare mentioned that with our pastor leaving in December there may be a need for additional Sunday morning speakers.
- Joel Weidner commented about the struggles of coordinating MYF activities in the past year. This led to a discussion on mentoring and suggestions that we should consider starting mentoring early in our children's lives. Nel Kopp mentioned that the Akron Mennonite Church begins mentoring at age 8. A comment was also made that we consider partnering with another church. Leah Witzig mentioned that her children were involved in the Presbyterian FISH group when they were attending UMC.

Kathleen Stehouwer made a motion to affirm all volunteers. It was seconded and passed.

Proposed Bylaws Amendment – Karen Rath presented the proposed amendment to section V of our bylaws that would change the concept of the congregational chair elect to an assistant chair. She confirmed the following procedural requirements. Voting is by members only. To pass the motion will need to be 85% of all ballots cast. In addition to ballots cast at the meeting, signed ballots would be accepted with two additional weeks for absentee voting.

A discussion was held and members voiced opinions both for and against the proposed change.

Voting Results: Subsequent to this meeting, Karen Rath sent out an email with the results of the vote. **The proposed amendment passed** with a vote of 94% yes and 6% no.

Camp Hebron Discussion and Decision – A lengthy discussion was held about the future of Camp Hebron and the proposed motions from the leadership team. It is clear that our community is not of one mind when it comes to the topic of the annual church retreat. Community members feel differently about the importance of the retreat and of the particular location of Camp Hebron. The discussions at the most recent Community Café showed that there was strong support for Camp Hebron as well as some doubt around spending that amount of money on a retreat.

Karen clarified that there will be two related motions—one about holding the retreat and one about funding the retreat from the church budget.

Jim Pierce commented that because attending Camp Hebron is a long standing tradition of the church, it should take a super-majority (70% as defined in article X of the bylaws) to change that practice. That is what was the thinking behind the wording of the motions.

After much discussion the group agreed to move forward on the following two motions:

Camp Hebron Motion # 1

It has been our tradition to have an annual church retreat at Camp Hebron. Going forward, this practice shall end immediately.

Vote Yes to end the practice of going to Camp Hebron.

Vote No to continue the practice of going to Camp Hebron.

Camp Hebron Motion # 2

It has been our practice to fully fund the annual church retreat through the church budget. This practice shall end immediately.

Vote Yes to end the practice of fully funding the retreat through the budget.

Vote No to continue the practice of fully funding the retreat through the budget

Voting Results: Subsequent to the meeting Karen sent out the results of the votes:

Motion 1 failed to pass with 7% voting YES, 91% voting NO, and 2% Abstaining
(the practice of going to Camp Hebron will continue)

Motion 2 failed to pass with 14% voting YES, 86% voting NO
(the practice of funding the retreat through the church budget will continue)

Pastoral Search Process – Karen Rath reported that the leadership team is meeting with the conference minister in the near future to kick off the search process. Several comments were made about moving ahead expediently and not delaying the process.

Closing Song – The group sang *Blessed be the tie that binds*
Meeting Adjourned at 8:36 p.m.