

University Mennonite Church Business Meeting
November 18, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
Pending Congregational Approval

Attendance: Karl & Evelyn Bartsch, Carolyn Brubaker, Mike Bratt, Joyce & Marvin Hall, Kate Heinzl, Gloria Horst Rosenberger, Nel Kopp, Molly Kunkel, Rogers and Paulette McLane, Elaine Mercer, Karen Rath, Jim Rosenberger, Amy Sattler, Joel Weidner, Ben Wideman, Doug Yoder

Opening Devotions — Karen Rath read from 1 Peter, selected verses from chapters 1 and 2

Review and Approval of September 16, 2018 Meeting Minutes – Joyce Hall motioned to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

Leadership Reports

Pastor's Report — Kate Heinzl (report on web). Kate shared that her work as been focused on forming relationships within the UMC community, the local State College community, and within the Allegheny Mennonite Conference community. She is getting to know individuals better. A secondary focus has been preparing for Sunday mornings.

Congregational Chair's Report — Karen Rath – (report on web)

Elders' Report — Bethany Spicher Schonberg – (report on web)

Finance Committee — Jim Rosenberger – (reports on web) Jim highlighted some information from the reports on the web site.

- Income pretty much on track for this time of year.
- The finance committee is recommending a change in deductible levels for our pastor's health insurance. These changes were discussed with both Kate and Ben and they are in agreement with the proposed changes. The net effect of the changes will be to save the church money in insurance premiums. Jim motioned that we change plan deductibles from \$2000/\$4000 to \$3000/\$6000 and that the church pay an initial \$1000 to each pastor's Health Savings Account. The motion was seconded and passed.
- Jim indicated that the finance committee had reviewed the handling of restricted income funds, designated for 3rd Way Collective from last fiscal year and decided that those funds should remain designated for the ministry.

Campus Ministry

3rd Way Collective Report — Ben Wideman - Ben referenced the video presentation that was shown during worship in the morning. He reports that it is working well to have shifted from a posture of program to one of presence. There have been fewer scheduled events in order to have time to be fully present with students when needed. The schedule allows for time to respond to needs as they come up (e.g. transgender rally, Muslim pizza evening, etc.). Ben is having more one-on-one meetings with students. He reported that he still feels busy, but it feels like a more productive busyness. Ben thanked the church for the on-going support and reported that he feels good about the advisory committee.

Campus Pastor Covenant – Jim Rosenberger – Leland and Jim had worked on a covenant last year but never brought it forward to the congregation. The calling of Kate as our lead pastor and the work on her covenant prompted the advisory committee to create a covenant for Ben that is consistent with Kate’s covenant in terms of benefits and time off. The covenant is dated last year which is consistent with the beginning of Ben’s second three-year term.

- The new three-year covenant between the congregation and the campus pastor began on September 1, 2017 and will be on-going. A three-month (90 days) written notice is required by either party to terminate this covenant.
- Jim Rosenberger motioned, on behalf of the advisory committee, to approve the revised covenant. The motion was seconded and passed.
- Ben expressed appreciation for having a three-year covenant in place of the year-to-year ministry commitment.
- Jim mentioned that he feels confident we can successfully obtain 50% of the ministry funding from outside the congregation.

Proposed UMC Bylaws Change – Karen explained the reason for the small technical change is to give greater flexibility in scheduling the business of the church. The congregation has had appropriate notice and opportunity to discuss the change per our procedures for amending the second paragraph of article X of the bylaws as follows:

“At least four congregational business meetings shall be held annually and shall be open to all members and active participants of University Mennonite Church. Participation in voting shall be consistent with the guidelines in Article IV. Meeting purposes shall include the affirmation/election of persons to congregational offices, functions, and committees, adoption of a budget, the discussion of church policy and practices, and for any other business related to the congregation. Additional meetings may be called at the discretion of the congregational chair.”

Karen brought a motion from the leadership team to make the bylaws change as described. The motion was seconded. Ballots were distributed and ballots can be cast until December 2, 2018 at midnight. Karen will also send out an email to allow for voting via email.

Committee Reports

Ten Thousand Villages Report — Joel Weidner – (report on web)

Meetinghouse Committee Report — Doug Yoder – (report on web) Doug mentioned that they will need some volunteers in gutting bathrooms. More information to come. He also noted that Bart Moyer, Bart’s son, and Mary Derstein had painted of downstairs classrooms. The congregation expressed thanks for the work that was done.

Fellowship Committee Report — Elaine Mercer - (report on web)

Children and Youth Program Committee Report — Bethany Spicher Schonberg - (report on web). There was some discussion about children and youth programs.

- Marvin Hall noted that the most significant issue in the report is the item related to restarting the mentoring program as well as inter-generational activities.
- Kate mentioned that we also have a high-schooler and want to make sure she has an opportunity for a mentor if she is interested.
- A question was asked about the sending of our single high schooler to the national Mennonite Conference. Joel Weidner recommended that the best approach would be that if Sarah desired to attend, that we connect her with another AMC youth group.
- Molly Kunkel expressed concern about the state of our children's Sunday School and program and what that says about our church's commitment to our children. She felt that the state of our children and youth programs was currently very weak. Part of the problem is that we don't have many children right now. It is somewhat of a chicken and egg problem.
- Ben Wideman mentioned that there was an active group of children at Amy's birthday party and that there is a sense of belonging. Part of the problem is irregular attendance by adults and families.
- Amy Sattler mentioned that this could be an opportunity for mixed age and generational activities.

New Business – Karen asked if there was any new business that needed to be discussed.

- Elaine Mercer brought up the issue of Christmas caroling. We used to carol, but have not for several years.
- Evelyn Bartsch noted that Hearthside nursing facility told us last year that they had too many groups at Christmas time.
- Nel Kopp suggested that we do singing at a different time of year.
- Jim Rosenberger suggested that we might try another location like Elmcroft.
- Kate Heinzl suggested that maybe we walk around our local neighborhood.
- Carolyn Brubaker suggested that we sing for shut-ins in our congregation.
- It was decided to do caroling on Saturday the 15th at 4 p.m. Interested persons will meet at the church. Elaine Mercer will send out notices.

Marvin Hall moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Closing Hymn - The group sang one verse from Blessed be the tie that binds.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Weidner, Secretary

Next Meeting – February 17, 2019, 11 am (after worship)