

University Mennonite Church Congregational Meeting

August 2, 2020 Meeting, 12:07 pm

Pending Congregational Approval

Attendance: Karl & Evelyn Bartsch, Mike Bratt & Elaine Mercer, Cathy Bresee, Karen Brandes, Carolyn Brubaker, Hope Brubaker, Rodney Brubaker, Mary Derstein, Tim & Rosita Derstine, Joyce & Marvin Hall, Kate Heinzl, Gloria Horst-Rosenberger & Jim Rosenberger, Carl Keener, Becky Kephart, Ruth Kitchin-Tillman, Nel Kopp, Jean Landis, Ken & Laura Litwiller, Violet McLane, Fran and Osseo Asare, Ieva & Scott Perkons, Amy Sattler, Evelyn Stauffer, Rick & Kathleen Stehouwer, Joel & Krista Weidner, Sophia Weidner, Ben & Meredith Wideman, Leah Witzig, Sam Yoder

Review and approval of minutes from May 24, 2020 meeting. The meeting minutes were reviewed and Nel Kopp moved to approve as presented. The motion was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Rosenberger presented the treasurer's report and related reports.

- Highlights re: our financial position for the 2019-2020 fiscal year-to-date include:
- 11 months into fiscal year (about 92%)
- Balance sheet and income and expense reflect financial activity through August 2, 2020
- Current assets are \$95,664.44
- Net income to date is \$17,564.92
- \$170,836 in income has been raised compared to budgeted income for the year of \$210,000 (about 10% behind)
- Expenses are generally within budget or below budget due to the COVID-19 closure

Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Jim presented a proposed budget that was an updated version of the preliminary budget that was approved in May. Net revenues for the budget are estimated at \$15,720.

The following reports were posted on the web site:

- Treasurer's Report-2020-07-25
- Actual vs Budget 2020-08-02—summary
- Actual vs Budget 2020-08-02—detail
- Balance Sheet 2020-08-02
- Income and Expense by class 2020-08-02-summary
- UMC proposed budget for 2020-2021 Fiscal Year

Kate Heinzl asked if our reserves exceed our plan for holding reserves at 25% of our annual budget. Jim indicated that would be the case at the end of the fiscal year. Fran Osseo Asare asked about giving the excess funds (\$229) that were recently Amie Sefu could be forwarded to the Good News Theological Seminary for the need for a vehicle that Thomas Oduro recently shared. Laura Litwiller asked if we would consider giving some of our excess reserves to the MCC response to COVID around the world.

Rick Stehouwer suggested that we wait until the fiscal year is over to make these decisions on how to spend excess reserves and that the finance committee report to the congregation on the state of reserves and ask for suggestions for how to spend that money.

Marvin Hall noted the immediacy of the need for a vehicle at GNTS and motioned that we do move ahead and allocate the extra \$229 to that cause. The motion was seconded and passed.

The proposed budget was approved by affirmation.

Elder Affirmation - There was some confusion around the nomination of elder to replace Joel Weidner and Rick recommended that we table the discussion until there was time for someone from leadership to speak to the two potential nominees (Elaine Mercer and Laura Litwiller).

Rick extended thanks to Joel Weidner and Doug Miller, who will end their terms as elder and chairperson this month. He also thanked all who served in volunteer positions over this last year.

COVID-19 Facility Use and Decision Making

UMC Reopening Survey Results - Rick reviewed several of the key questions in the survey that indicated a significant number of persons were not ready in the near future to return to in-person services and that there were a significant number of persons that have issues. The survey also indicated that there was strong support to hold hybrid services (in-person/Zoom) once we do begin to meet in person again.

Building Use Guidelines Group (BUGG) and Decision Making - Kate gave some history on the groups that are working on the COVID issues (building use, hybrid worship services, other gatherings outside of Sunday morning). She reported that the BUGG group has met several times and created guidelines for building use that were shared with the congregation. Paul McCormick has agreed to chair the group.

Rick presented a proposal from the leadership team on how we would make decisions around the COVID issues—essentially that BUGG would make recommendations to leadership and that leadership would confer with other appropriate committees and make decisions. Fran asked if facilities includes the parking lot (as it could relate to services in parking lot)? Rick indicated that facilities includes the entire building and grounds.

Jim Rosenberger moved to affirm that BUGG group with Paul as chair and the decision-making procedure as proposed. The motion was seconded and passed.

The following reports were posted on the web site:

- UMC Reopening Survey Results
- COVID building use guidelines draft

Antiracism Awareness and Action

Kate provided history on how after the George Floyd was killed by the police, the UMC leadership sent a letter to our local police and officials. That letter prompted the response from UMC youth that included suggestions to:

- Listen to minority voices
- Get involved in local work
- Naming of officers in the Osaze Osagie killing
- Call to defund the police

Kate noted that several in the congregation have been involved in a book study and attending webinars. She also indicated that Joel and Krista Weidner have volunteered to be informal leaders within UMC to keep the discussion before us.

Open Discussion – There was an open discussion and several individuals shared their thoughts on what it means to defund the police, how we might listen to minority voices and become more involved in making change.

Joel indicated that we will be planning a future community café on Zoom that would allow more time for the topic and provide for discussion in smaller groups so more voice could be heard.

The following documents Have been posted on the web site:

- Letter to UMC from former UMC youth
- Leadership response email July 8 to congregation

Camp Hebron

The congregation needs to make a decision on going to Camp Hebron. Elaine Mercer suggested that in light of the current COVID-19 news it would not a good idea to go.

Rosita suggested that we make our payment or part of it as a donation to Camp Hebron to help with their finances. Rick suggested that could be considered along with other ideas on how we spend reserves (noted above).

Marvin Hall moved that we not attend Camp Hebron this year. The motion was seconded and passed.

Committee reports – The following committee report is available on the web site.

- Meetinghouse committee report

Kate closed the meeting in prayer

Meeting adjourned at 1:33

Respectfully Submitted

Joel Weidner, Secretary