

University Mennonite Church Congregational Meeting  
December 6, 2020 10:55 am via Zoom  
Pending Congregational Approval

Attendance: Karl and Evelyn Bartsch, Fran and Osseo Asare, Hope Brubaker, Kate Heinzl, Ndunge Sefu, Rick and Kathleen Stehouwer, Gloria-Horst Rosenberger and Jim Rosenberger, Mary Derstein, Rosita Derstine, Leah Witzig, Laura Litwiller, Bart Moyer, Elaine Mercer, Mike Bratt, Esther Prins and Leland Glenna, Hal Kunkel, Joyce and Marvin Hall, Becky and Dale Kephart, Meredith and Ben Wideman, Carolyn Brubaker, Rodney Brubaker, Cathy Bresee, Evelyn Stauffer, Karen Brandes, Leah and Fidele Lumeya, Paul McCormick, Paulette McLane, Krista Weidner.

Rick Stehouwer opened the meeting at 10:55 with a reading from Mark 13:24-37.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes from the August 2, 2020 Congregational meeting were approved, with the addition of Leah Witzig as an attendee.

**Confirmation of Elder**

The confirmation of Laura Litwiller as Elder was confirmed, by a motion from Fran Osseo-Assare, seconded by Hope Brubaker, and unanimously confirmed.

**Distribution of Excess Reserves**

Rick Stehouwer introduced the subject of distributing the excess reserves, in keeping with bylaws that require no more than 25% of the operating budget be held in reserve. A survey was distributed earlier this fall seeking suggestions for distribution of the \$37,000 excess reserves. A summary of that survey was distributed previously to the congregation via email, listing the vote and recommending seven organizations to receive funds. Rick stated the topic was open for discussion to amend, accept, or dismiss the organizations recommended by the Leadership Team, which were based on the results of the congregational survey.

Leland Glenna stated that with regard to the Net Zero Energy project the Leadership Team believed it should be discussed and approved in a meeting, and be paid for by fund raising. Jim Rosenberger agreed with Leland and endorsed that proposal for the Net Zero Energy project. Kate Heinzl stated that the Leadership Team supports the Net Zero project as well as the acquisition of new hymnals, and felt that both should be handled outside of this distribution decision. Fran Osseo-Assare stated her support for the distribution plan and was pleased to see it would benefit projects outside of the church. Esther Prins stated she had circulated a newsletter underscoring the need for the Florence project and was pleased that this project was among those recommended to receive reserve funds. Hal noted that the sound system in the sanctuary was not yet complete, and would require the balance of the \$4,000 allocated for that project.

Rick stated that the motion had been made by the Leadership Team to distribute the funds to seven organizations. Gloria Horst Rosenberger seconded the motion and praised the Leadership Team for an

excellent job. The vote of those present was unanimous to approve the motion for distribution of excess reserve funds. The approved distributions are listed below.

Distribution of Excess Reserves, Approved Dec 6, 2020:

Mennonite Central Committee	\$ 6,000
Mennonite Disaster Service	\$ 5,000
MCUSA Justice Fund	\$ 5,500
The State College Food Bank	\$ 5,000
Interfaith Human Services	\$ 5,000
Out of the Cold	\$ 5,000
Florence Immigration and Refugee Rights Project	\$ <u>5,500</u>
Total	\$37,000

### Reports

Rick stated a number of reports are posted on the web site, including the Pastor's Report and the Elders report. Rick reported the Leadership Team is developing a plan for discernment of gifts with the goal of working to intentionally fill church positions. He also reported that Kate has completed her third year as pastor that the Leadership Team would be preparing an evaluation for her.

Jim Rosenberger presented a Treasurer's report indicating that giving is reduced in this COVID period, but expenses are also reduced. He did not foresee a need for a call for additional contributions at this time. The financial reports are posted on the website.

Paul McCormick reported for the BUG (Building Use Guidelines) committee which was charged with approval of requests to use the church building during the pandemic. AA is approved to meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon to 1:00, and the Pathway group has been approved for small language classes of 2 or 3 individuals at a time, which have not yet started. The Worship Committee proposed some advent activities, which the BUG committee denied out of concern for safety.

Laura Litwiller reported on plans for children's education and is requesting feedback from parents on programming and what would be useful. Kate reported that although there is no Sunday School for children, materials for families are provided to engage the children, and stated that the goal was to find ways to support all of the congregation through the COVID era.

Rick thanked all for attending, and adjourned the Zoom meeting at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Bresee