

University Mennonite Church Congregational Meeting
February 21, 2021 10:45 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 and Ken Litwiller, Elaine Mercer, Mike Bratt, Esther Prins, Leland Glenna, Joyce Hall, Becky and Dale Kephart, Meredith and Ben Wideman, Cathy Bresee, Evelyn Stauffer, Lea and Fidele Lumeya, Paul McCormick, Paulette McLane, Joel Weidner, Ruth Kitchin Tillman, Violet McLane, Vonda and Doug Yoder, Nel Kopp, Kris Charles, Jean Landis, Jim Prowant, Bethany Spicher Schonberg.

Rick Stehouwer opened the meeting at 10:45.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes from the December 6, 2020 Congregational meeting were approved, with edits as described by Rick. The corrected version is posted on the church website.

Pastor's Report

Kate Heinzl reported on the efforts to lead our church community during COVID, and the encouragement of continued participation via Zoom and the ability to include those far from State College. She described involvement in community initiatives, building relationships with other pastors, and work to re-envision church as we emerge from COVID and consider a hybrid church experience.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Rosenberger presented a Treasurer's report, announcing that funds continue to flow in and that the budget is in good shape. This past quarter he sent the approved contributions to the seven charities that the church approved for funding, and that all had been gratefully acknowledged. He highlighted that two of these were groups the church had not previously supported - the Justice Fund, and the South west.....xxxxx. He thanked Evelyn Stauffer for auditing the financial records. The financial reports are posted on the website.

Other Reports

Rick stated a number of reports are posted on the web site, including the complete report for the Pastor's Report and Treasurer's report. (Embed the link)

Break-out Groups for discussion of pastor evaluation

Those attending were divided into six groups in Zoom, and discussion was facilitated in each group by a member of the Leadership Team. Three questions were posed for consideration in each group, allowing ten minutes per question. The three questions are:

1. From your perspective, what are the two or three most important contributions that Kate is currently making to this congregation's mission and ministry?

2. What aspects in the life of our congregation should Kate be focusing her energies over the next several years?
3. Name two or three places where you believe God's Spirit is moving, calling us as a congregation to grow spiritually and in our ministry and mission. How might the pastor help lead in these directions?

At the conclusion of the Zoom breakout sessions, the group returned for a closing prayer. Rick thanked all for attending, and adjourned the meeting at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Bresee