

University Mennonite Church Congregational Meeting
May 16, 2021 11:00 am via Zoom
Pending Congregational Approval

Attendance: Karl and Evelyn Bartsch, Fran Osseo-Asare, Hope Brubaker, Kate Heinzl, Nedunge Sefu, Rick and Kathleen Stehouwer, Gloria-Horst Rosenberger and Jim Rosenberger, Mary Derstein, Leah Witzig, Karen Brandes, Amy Sattler, Carolyn Brubaker, Rodney Brubaker, Laura and Ken Litwiller, Esther Prins, Leland Glenna, Joyce and Marvin Hall, Becky and Dale Kephart, Meredith and Ben Wideman, Cathy Bresee, Evelyn Stauffer, Paulette McLane, Joel Weidner, Ruth Kitchin Tillman, Doug Yoder, Nel Kopp, Kris Charles, Jean Landis, Jess and Paul McCormick.

Rick Stehouwer opened the meeting at 11:00 with a reading of Psalm 100.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes from the February 21, 2021 Congregational Meeting were unanimously approved, with motion from Leah Witzig, seconded by Jim Rosenberger.

Report on Pastor Evaluation

The outcome of the third-year pastor evaluation had been previously been posted with the agenda, and Rick Stehouwer presented a motion from the Leadership Team to welcome Kate Heinzl to continue as pastor for another three-year term, and it was seconded by Gloria Horst Rosenberger. The vote was unanimous, and the new covenant will extend from Sept 1, 2021 to August 31, 2024.

Restricted fund to support seminary training for Ndunge Sefu

Material had previously been circulated regarding a proposal to create a restricted fund for pledges support for Ndunge Sefu to attend a three-year seminary training at AMBS in peace and justice ministry. The Leadership Team made a motion to create such a fund, and it was seconded by Leah Witzig. Discussion addressed the need for support for three years of study, with the greatest need in the first year. Jim Rosenberger said the Finance Committee will send out a pledge form which will explain the timing of the financial need. Jim will forward funds from UMC to AMBS where Ndunge will be able to withdraw funds for his living expenses. The motion to create the restricted fund was unanimously passed.

Pastor's Report

Kate Heinzl expressed her appreciation for the support of her continued role as pastor, and that her written report addressed her current activities. Of note is her participation in a six-week series on leadership resilience through Fuller Seminary, working with local community programs, and maintaining connections with congregation members during the challenges of COVID.

Leadership Team Report

Rick Stehouwer reported for the Leadership Team with the proposal that the number of church elders be reduced from the current team of four individuals to three elders for the coming year. He explained that the number of elders was increased from three to four at a time when our congregation was larger, and now with reduced numbers the Leadership Team brings a motion to reduce the count to three elders. Ben Wideman seconded the motion. Discussion was held over the goal of diversity among the

elders, and no other motion was made to alter the initial motion. The motion to move to three elders instead of four passed unanimously.

The Leadership Team also proposed a motion that the Treasurer be a member of the Leadership Team, and Leah Witzig seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Rosenberger presented a Treasurer's report which is posted on the website. He reported that contributions are coming in regularly and that the balance sheet is strong. Expenses have been less than budgeted due to reduced use of the church facilities. A draft budget for next fiscal year was presented with discussion of items that will need to be included, such as technology to enable hybrid church services when we can meet again in-person, expenses for conference travel, and HVAC expenses for the building. The Finance Committee plans to send out a survey to ask how individuals would prioritize the church's allocation of funds to groups it currently supports or should support, and that will be incorporated into the final budget to be adopted at the August congregational meeting. The financial reports are posted on the website.

Creation Care Committee

Jean Landis reported on the work of the Creation Care committee and the proposal that UMC join the Mennonite Creation Care Network (MCCN) as a Greenpatch Congregation. This identification would include our name on their website and enable us to have a liaison person assigned to engage with the network. The motion to join was made by the Creation Care committee and seconded by Joel Weidner, and passed unanimously.

Closing

Rick Stehouwer reminded the group that various written committee reports are posted on the website for today's meeting <http://www.universitymennonite.org/congregation-meeting-2021-05-16/>.

Rick thanked all for attending, and adjourned the meeting with prayer at 12:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Bresee
May 16, 2021