

UMC Congregational Meeting (Quarterly)
Held completely on Zoom

Sunday, November 19, 2023 6:30 to 7:45 pm

Present:

Joel Weidner (Chair)
Tim Groff (Assistant Chair); Carmen Groff;
Pastor Kate Heinzl;
Ken Litwiller (Secretary; Minutes); Laura Litwiller;
Jim Rosenberger (Treasurer); Gloria Horst Rosenberger;
Fidele Lumeya;
Nel Kopp;
Doug/Julie McPherson;
Leah Witzig;
Doug Yoder; Vonda Yoder;
Ruth Kitchin Tillman;
Nathan Derstine;
Ben Wideman;
Rick Stehouwer; Kathleen Stehouwer;
Doug Miller;
Evelyn Stauffer;
Mary Derstein;

Welcome: Joel welcomed the participants and opened in prayer. He then provided guidelines for Zoom use. He announced that UMC would resume Adult Education on every Sunday. This is in collaboration with the commitment by Childrens' Education for every Sunday programming.

August 20, 2023 UMC Congregational Meeting Minutes: Approved.

Congregational Chair Report: Joel noted that the first Acoustic concert will be on January 6, 2023. This and other events represent opportunities for others to learn about and perhaps be interested in UMC. Since others use our building, we want to make sure that our bulletin boards, etc. reflect who we are.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Kate encouraged UMC people to meet personally with her. She noted that this is a hopeful time with new people, the children's nook, etc. Jim added affirmation for the new people, in particular the young families.

Treasurers Report: Jim apologized for the late submission of the report.

He referred to the survey sent concerning budget allocations to local ministries. The committee followed up with a survey concerning who at UMC is involved with the ministries. Jim reviewed the results.

He reported a successful transition to QuickBooks Online with help from Terry Yoder. He then carefully reviewed the budget. He reported that Thomas Oduro at GNTCS has requested to use some of the UMC funds for support of the general budget. Laura, Mary, and Jim are discussing.

Creation Care: Jim reported on the contribution of the solar panels and noted that the committee is working on estimates for heat pumps for the basement. The congregation will continue to use the resistance heaters for the sanctuary. Heat pumps are good for maintaining constant heat but are less effective for raising temperatures for short use events like Sunday morning worship.

Visioning Team: Nathan Derstine reported on the meeting on Saturday, November 11. The group got to know each other and began reviewing the church's history and current context. They discovered both common things and things that are new. This is an expansive, brainstorming phase. Things will get messier before they get clearer; we need to bush out before we prune.

Ben noted that the Universalist and UBBC are also in times of transition.

Meetinghouse Committee: Gloria highlighted that the wheelchair station needs to be accessible from the center of the sanctuary for safety purposes. Doug Yoder noted that the shorter pew from the basement may be used to create space. We may need to consider how to provide for more than one person in a wheelchair.

With regard to the many people who use our facility, we may need to upgrade the downstairs bathrooms at the Norma Street/parking lot corner. We already have a unisex, wheelchair accessible restroom in the basement near to the kitchen.

Congregational Meeting Times: Joel noted that there was higher attendance at the August 2023 meeting held after worship on a Sunday. The leadership may send out a survey to gather ideas for scheduling future meetings, usually held on the third Sunday.

Closing: Joel thanked all for attendance and blessed all for a good week with awareness of Christ's presence.

Submitted by Ken Litwiller