

**College Mennonite Church**  
**Minutes – Congregational Meeting**  
**June 12, 2016**

1. **Opening:** Max Mertz, congregational moderator, convened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. and, after reciting the congregational vision statement, led in an opening prayer. He introduced the agenda for the meeting.
2. **Announcements:**
  - Talashia Keim Yoder encouraged people to add suggestions to the list of possible alternate activities for the second hour during our July sabbatical.
  - Sarah Yoder invited everyone to join in action step planning at a meeting scheduled for June 22.
  - Becky Horst reported that the LGBT process planning group has met twice. She invited people to submit agenda items for the group to consider and asked for prayer.
  - Madeline Maldonado, pastor-in-residence, noted that members of her congregation (Arca Iglesia Menonita Arca de Salvación in Fort Myers, Fla.) put a lot of trust in their pastors. Since a majority of the members have only a first-grade education, they generally defer to the pastors during congregational meetings.
3. Don Garber reviewed the **minutes** of the congregational meetings of April 17 and May 1, 2016, which were approved.
4. Most of the rest of the meeting was focused on the **2016-17 spending plan**. Referring to the document “2016-2017 CMC Ministries Fund Proposal,” Marty Lehman noted the movement toward telling the stories of congregational ministries rather than focusing on the commissions. She highlighted several of the ministries as described in the document, noting that staff salary and benefits costs are included with the ministry totals. She also briefly described the budget planning process.

Time was allotted for table group discussion focused on these questions:

- What specific ideas do you have for reducing or eliminating two or three existing ministries (stopping to do what? reducing staff costs, how/where/with what impact on ministries)?
- Where would you advocate for CMC to increase investment in specific ministries? How?

Small groups entered in a period of lively discussion related to the spending plan. In the plenary reporting, members shared perspectives on importance of supporting existing and changing ministries and how individual choices about how and when to give (general/designated, etc.) impact our spending plan. The role of personnel costs in overall ministry funding also received attention.

By ballot vote, a resolution to accept the \$1,150,000 proposal for 2016-17 was approved (70 yes, 2 no). It was noted that if member giving to the general fund continues to fall short of adopted goals, significant cuts will be necessary in 2017-18:

5. The meeting was **adjourned** about 5:45 p.m. with the singing led by Becky Horst. Attendance: 82.

Recorder: Don Garber