

**College Mennonite Church  
Minutes – Congregational Meeting  
January 22, 2017**

1. **Opening:** Max Mertz, congregational moderator, convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and recited the congregational vision statement. Gwen Gustafson-Zook led the group in singing “New Earth, Heavens New” and in an opening prayer. Max introduced the agenda for the meeting.
2. Don Garber reviewed the **minutes** of the congregational meeting of Nov. 13, 2016, which were approved.
3. The moderator highlighted the summary of **Marty Lehman’s term review**, which had been distributed with the agenda. He introduced a recommended motion from the Church Board:

That College Mennonite Church call Marty Lehman to a new five-year term of service on our pastoral team beginning April 1, 2017.

He invited comments on the motion; there being none, the question was called, with voting by ballot. The motion passed: 110 yes, 2 no (including absentee ballots).

4. Mike Landis, congregational treasurer, outlined the annual **budget planning** process. Work on this begins in February with the staff and VLT pastors developing a spending plan based on congregational vision and priorities and past financial data and projections. In March the commissions and the Church Board will offer counsel on their individual sections. In April the Administration Commission will review and offer counsel on the unified proposal. In May the Vision Leadership Team will make final revisions and submit the spending plan to the Church Board for review and recommendation to congregation, with action at the June congregational meeting.

Mike also highlighted **trends in giving and spending**. Given current trends, a significant shortfall is anticipated at year-end. In response to a question about when the congregation will have input on this, Mike noted that this will be up to the Church Board. Board member Joe Springer noted that the spending plan was based on the congregation’s priorities.

5. Pastoral team leader Phil Waite reported on steps toward **immigration local solidarity**. The congregation has developed a membership card for persons in our church family who do not have photo ID cards. These can serve the purpose of a photo ID as well as provide contact information in the case of an emergency. While these are not legal identification documents, the local police chief has affirmed this as a helpful step. CMC continues to network with other congregations and agencies in Goshen on this issue.
6. **Strategic priorities update:**
  - a. **Discerning welcoming statement (Priority 1—Hospitality and Welcoming):** Becky Horst of the implementation team highlighted the schedule of activities planned to help the congregation come to an informed decision at the March 26 congregational meeting. The goal is not to create a position statement but to clarify our practices and to assure that we are a welcoming congregation despite our differences. Activities include a series on “Engaging the Bible” with Loren Johns during the second hour on three Sundays, story-telling and teaching sessions on five Wednesday evenings, and a discussion forum on Sunday, March 12.
  - b. **Priority 2—Faith and Spiritual Practices:** Tim Lichti reported that the work of the action teams related to this priority has been going well, despite calendar difficulties.

- c. **Transforming physical space (Priority 1—Hospitality and Welcoming):** Caryl Guth and Myra Oswald, co-chairs of the action team related to goal 3.1, presented the team’s final report. The team worked in three subgroups and suggested many ideas to meet the desired outcome: “Diverse new (and old) CMCers will be able to easily locate our building, know where to enter, and feel an immediate sense of welcome inside. They will be able to easily find services and locations that they need and will have plenty of convenient and attractive spaces for conversation.” The 24 proposed actions were in the following categories: designation of main entrance, exterior signage, exterior landscaping, other exterior, interior general aesthetics, interior plantscaping, interior fellowship spaces, interior signage, and other interior.

The team noted that, while some ideas can be implemented with only modest investment of time/resources, others will require considerable time/resources. Most can be implemented independently of each other as time and resources allow.

7. **Listening/discerning as a congregation.** In table groups, participants were invited to respond to the following questions regarding the proposed actions to transform our physical space:
- Which two or three proposals excite you most? Why
  - Which two or three proposals do you think we should try to do first?
  - Which proposals do you think we should not pursue? Why?
  - Do you have other ideas for how to transform CMC’s physical space in ways that promote hospitality and welcome? How
  - What further questions (other than cost) do you have about specific proposals?
8. **Report from the floor:** Myrna Burkholder, co-chair with Leonard Gross of a member group that has been working with ideas related to strengthening our practices of love, caring and unity made a report from that group. Two examples of ideas that the group suggests are a) to reintroduce “open mike” at congregational meetings and b) to schedule post-service sermon discussion. The moderator noted that the group’s report has not been reviewed by the Strategic Planning Implementation Team.
9. The moderator asked if there were **other items of business** to consider. There being none, the meeting was **adjourned** about 7:30 p.m. Attendance: 109.

Recorder: Don Garber