

**College Mennonite Church  
Minutes – Congregational Meeting  
August 20, 2017**

- 1. Opening:** Joe Springer, substituting for Max Mertz, convened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. Becky Horst led in an opening hymn, “Take My Life and Let it Be.” Joe Springer reviewed the meeting’s agenda and offered an opening prayer.
- 2. Review of Minutes:** Bill Clemens reviewed the minutes of the June 11, 2017 congregational meeting. Sue Neeb moved the approval of the minutes. June A. Yoder seconded. They were approved by hand vote.

- 3. Resolution of appreciation for Gwen Gustafson-Zook’s ministry:** On behalf of the Board, Joe Springer moved that the following resolution be adopted.

*College Mennonite Church offers thanks to God for the gifts of faith and ministry in word, relationships, and music bestowed on Gwen Gustafson-Zook and for her willingness to share these gifts faithfully and generously with us during three years of formal ministry in our congregation. Our sincere love and prayers will follow Gwen as she walks along new paths of Christian discipleship. We wish Gwen God’s richest blessings, spiritual and physical well-being in the years ahead.*

Motion was seconded by Elaine Schrock, and unanimously approved by hand vote:

- 4. CMC Staffing Updates:**

- From Phil Waite: This has been a summer of transitions, with Diana Hershberger, Sheila Yoder, Sandra Lapp, and Gwen Gustafson-Zook all leaving. We still don’t know how all the pieces will fit together, Whitney Evans has been hired for the support staff and Marie Clements has rejoined that staff. The board does not intend to call another pastor to replace Gwen at this time. Luis Tapia will be with us ten hours per week.
- From Joe Springer : The Church Board Vice-Chair position is still not filled. Once that is filled, all filled positions will be announced in the church bulletin. Members are encouraged to complete and return the Skills and Interest Survey if they have not done so.

- 5. Wider Church Reports**

- **MC USA Convention in Orlando:** Don Garber reported. The Future Church Summit process/event at the convention, filled him with hope for our denomination. A resolution on Seeking Peace in Israel and Palestine passed at the convention.
- **IN-MI Annual Conference:** Vivian Kaser and Tim Lichti reported. The Swanee Lake Area Council hosted the event, which was held at Amigo Centre. The conference’s theme was ‘The Way is Made From Walking.’ There is sadness and concern about many congregations leaving the conference, but new congregations have been added in Indianapolis and Elkhart.

Additional information regarding both events is available in a newsletter compiled by staff intern Emily Kauffman.

- 6. Listening/Discerning Session:** Table groups spent 30 minutes discussing new and ongoing Vision Project Possibilities for Hospitality and Ministry. Handouts describing these possibilities and their estimated cost had been distributed the previous week and were available at each table.

The table groups identified the questions listed below, and Joe Springer provided some clarifications/answers to the full group. Following that, some table members offered other questions/responses to the full group.

- What is Amity Corporation's part in the financial outlay for these projects?  
*Response:* CMC & GC collaborate in multiple ways. Our beginning assumption is that most of the facility-related proposals under consideration are ones that CMC is sufficiently interested in that CMC would be willing to fund rather than wait until matching interest/funds are available on the GC side. As with Fellowship Hall addition in the 1990s, CMC funded, but upkeep and maintenance have been shared equally by CMC/GC through Amity. It is possible that some projects, such as interior signage improvements might attract GC funding participation.
- Would Gathering Room kitchen improvements be subject to Health Code regulations that apply to our main kitchen? *Response:* Our current understanding is they would not. This is intended to provide the ability to warm or cool food prepared elsewhere.
- Why is Latino outreach outside our budget? *Response:* Not all costs are outside our budget. Our current general fund maintains existing levels of ministry. The new ministries funding is designed to permit greater investment for staffing/development of new ministries than is possible within the limitations of our current general fund.
- Is our learning Spanish for hospitality or fluency? *Response:* There are no specifics as yet. We might target fluency for some people (e.g. key staff members) but also seek opportunities to engage a broader group in the congregation for hospitality.
- What about teaching English to Latinos? *Response:* Currently other organizations, including Goshen College, are offering such classes.
- What transportation issues might be addressed by purchasing a bus? *Response:* There are various possibilities. One example: assist with transportation to/from CMC for people unable or unauthorized to drive legally.
- What more specifically is needed for the coffee equipment upgrade? *Response:* The proposal would be to upgrade main CMC kitchen equipment to restaurant-grade and move current equipment to Gathering Room.

A summary of additional information from table discussion reports will be available in literature racks.

- 7. Other Business:** There were no items of other business.

- 8. Adjournment:** Joe adjourned the meeting at 5:51 p.m. Attendance: 93.