

**College Mennonite Church
Minutes – Congregational Meeting
January 28, 2018, Fellowship Hall**

1. **Opening:** Joe Springer opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and led in an opening prayer.
2. **Opening Meditation:** Caryl Guth offered a meditation related to the Martin Luther King Day observance earlier this month. She reflected on her white southern upbringing and on the cruel and unjust system that blacks faced in the southern U.S. She suggested that they did trust, and we should trust, in God's ability to make a path clear when no way seems humanly possible.
3. **Review of Minutes:** Bill Clemens reviewed the minutes of the November 19, 2017 congregational meeting. Max Mertz moved the approval of the minutes. Sue Neeb seconded. They were approved by voice vote.
4. **Mid-Fiscal Year Financial Report:** Scott Litwiller reported on the congregation's finances as of 12/31/17 (which is the midpoint of our 2017-2018 fiscal year). He reported –
 - General Fund giving \$588,861
 - Estate gifts \$ 29,400
 - Special Fund giving \$199,816
 - As a percentage of approved spending plan, this year's General Fund giving was 2% ahead of last years' General Fund giving at the same point.
5. **Vision Campaign Updates Financial Updates:** Scott also reported on the funds pledged (and of those, funds already received) toward the overall \$1,000,000+ goal of the various Vision Campaign projects.
 - Commitments pledged \$845,797
 - Pledges paid \$316,935

Comparing commitments and the various vision category financial goals, Scott noted –

- Where Most Needed \$ 431,000 committed (=can be used in any category)
 - Endowment \$ 110,300 committed (of \$150,000 goal)
 - Hospitality of Place \$ 55,006 committed (of \$300,000 goal)
 - New Ministries \$ 34,000 committed (of \$250,000 goal)
 - Solar Panels \$ 159,791 committed (of \$150,000 goal)
 - Tech Upgrades \$ 41,350 committed (of \$150,000 goal)
 - Hymnal Project \$ 14,100 committed (of \$25,000 goal)
 - Spanish translations \$ 250 committed (of \$4,000 goal)
6. **Staffing Updates:** Marty reviewed the sheet (placed at each table) which described the College Mennonite Church supervisory relationships. She highlighted the assistants assigned to each pastor, and clarified the work of Brooks Hochstetler. Brooks is CMC (not Amity) staff but works on the technology needs of the whole Church-Chapel building. GC provides its own staffing for GC events. Phil and Talashia responded to questions about covering the music needs of the congregation since Gwen's departure. Phil acknowledged that we are currently short-handed in that area, and indicated Talashia has been able to give a little time to it. Talashia noted that the children sing each Sunday together, and that further discernment is going on about music for the congregation and its children.

7. New Ministries Table Discussion: Joe Springer introduced the discussion as a way for the congregation to provide feedback into the ways Vision Campaign resources for new ministries might be used. The board will use this information, along with feedback from a survey regarding Spanish-speaking ministry (distributed to literature boxes) to develop a more specific proposal for congregational discernment. Seth Yoder, Ron Kennel, and Rosalyn Troiano introduced the new ministries-related questions for discussion at the tables. Among these questions were:

- Look around the room. Imagine meeting here again in 2028, CMC's 125th anniversary. Who do we expect might be at these tables in 2028? Will they be us? Will they be like us or descendants of us? If so, how many will there be? Will there be people who are not like us or descendants of us? If so, what is it that has drawn them to this congregation? *What new ministries can the CMC of 2018 develop now for the vision we have for the CMC of 2028?*
- College Mennonite Church is used to depending heavily on our own internal resources. We view ourselves as knowledgeable, competent, intelligent, effective. Our current Vision Campaign makes more of our strong economic resources available for ministry. There are areas, for example availability of numerous volunteers, where we may not be as strong as we have been in the past. *For the new ministries, what resources do we already have, and what new resources do we have to find or identify?*
- We have talked a lot and experimented with sitting at the table of the other. We also talk about "broad umbrella" and diversity. Under President Stoltzfus's leadership, one of our historical partners in mission, Goshen College, is talking about how GC can move from diversity to full participation and equity. Leonard Dow, our recent MLK speaker, speaks of the importance of progressing from diversity to inclusion to equity. As he describes it: it is moving from you giving me permission to attend a dance, to you asking me to dance with you, and ending up with you and me together figuring out what the music of the dance will be. *What tools might we work with to make CMC more inclusive?*

After a 30-minute discussion time, table groups had opportunity to report their responses on one of these questions to the larger group. *[A Listening-Discerning summary of all written table responses submitted will be made available in literature racks.]*

8. Other Business:

June Yoder – Our table talked about the CMC Survey on New Ministries Possibilities that had been distributed in our church mailboxes. We wondered – 'What do the Spanish speakers in our congregation want in regards to these ministries?' Joe Springer's response: The intent of this survey was to get a "snapshot" of what the "Anglos" in the congregation are thinking. The church board will also factor in information from Spanish speakers in the congregation as it considers a potential proposal for congregational consideration.

9. Adjournment: Joe adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m. Attendance: 75.

Recorder: Bill Clemens