

College Mennonite Church
Minutes – Congregational Meeting
June 17, 2018, Fellowship Hall

1. **Opening:** Joe Springer opened the meeting at 6:02 p.m. After Becky Horst led the singing of the hymn “Be Thou My Vision”, Joe reflected on the renewal/transformation theme featured at the Indiana-Michigan Conference meeting in Indianapolis that he and other delegates had just attended. He then offered an opening prayer.
2. **Review of Minutes:** Bill Clemens reviewed the minutes of the May 13, 2018 congregational meeting. There were no corrections, and those minutes were approved.
3. **CMC 2018-2019 Ministries Fund:** Joe then highlighted several items related to this coming year’s proposed Ministries Fund.
 - The \$1,053,275 total is a 7.3% decrease from 2017-2018.
 - Funding for two new non-pastoral positions – a Church Administrator (0.8 FTE) and Director of Music Ministry (0.25 FTE) is included.
 - Talashia’s position increases from 0.5 to 0.6 FTE.
 - While pastoral staffing has decreased from 5.8 to 4.6 FTE, non-pastoral staffing has increased to 5.86 FTE.
 - The categories on the proposal handout breaks out the cost of the various ministries.
 - Beyond the total expenses, the Board seeks to build a rolling cash reserve to ensure CMC’s ability to cover fixed operating expenses during times of low cash flow. It is proposing a target of raising \$10,000 above current expenses for the coming year.
4. **Table and Group Discussion on the proposed 2018/2019 CMC Ministries Fund:** Table groups then discussed the proposal. Representatives of several tables posted clarification questions: [*Answers provided by Joe*]
 - How do the current CMC office hours (9 AM – 3 PM, Monday-Thursday, Closed Friday) promote hospitality? **Answer:** Vast majority of people visiting office are CMC members or regular attenders on a non-emergency basis and able to plan their visits within those times. If we expanded the hours we would need additional personnel in the office.
 - Where is the re-entry ministry in the Ministries Fund, and how is it funded? **Answer:** It is under the Pastoral Care Ministries. CMC Ministries Fund provides some staff support (Marie Clements) and much of the ministry is carried out by volunteers.
 - Will the Director of Music Ministry position also imply performance or leading performance responsibilities, or primarily administration and coordination? **Answer:** Primarily the latter.
 - Does Scott do the bookkeeping for the kitchen? **Answer:** Both Jessica and Scott have roles in kitchen bookkeeping. As with all other areas of CMC finances, Scott is the person entering final data into our records.
 - Wednesday evening meals with students – what were the expenses? **Answer:** During 2017/18 we spent \$35,000. However, we received contributions of \$11,000. Thus, our net cost was \$24,000.
 - How are we doing on the 2017-2018 budget? **Answer:** As of the end of May we had received \$980,000 toward a \$1,150,000 budget. We haven’t achieved our goal yet, but we are close.

5. **Action:** Joe moved that the congregation adopt the 2018-2019 CMC Ministries Fund Proposal. Dan Steiner seconded the motion.

The congregation voted by hand vote and the *proposal passed unanimously*.

6. **Bylaws Revision** – Copies of recommended changes to the CMC by-laws (made by a review group) were available at each table. Joe briefly introduced proposed revisions. If members would like to suggest any other changes, they should get them to the Board by July 15 so that, as required by bylaws, recommendations may circulate for a full month before the congregation takes action at our August 19 business meeting.

7. **IN-MI Conference Meeting Report:** Tim Lichti reported for the CMC delegation that attended the Indiana-Michigan Conference in Indianapolis on June 14-16.

- Other CMC delegates included Weldon and Luetta Friesen, Vivian Kaser, Phil Waite, Joe Springer, and Becky Horst. In addition, Bob Yoder (conference moderator-elect) was present.
- The theme was “Offering Ourselves to God’s Renewing “, based on Romans 12:1-2. The four main speakers all preached on that text. Participants were encouraged to understand the Gospel not as controlling, but as an invitation to release and liberate.
- A planned interfaith conversation with Jewish and Muslim leaders was not fully realized; however Jewish and Mennonite leaders were able to have a two-hour conversation.
- Approved changing status of Amigo Centre and Bethany Schools from conference-owned to associate organizations. This permits the organizations to select their own board members and relate to other constituencies in ways that provide flexibility necessary for the ongoing development of their respective missions.
- Several congregations are in the process of leaving. There are now 57 member congregations in the conference.
- The conference ended its fiscal year with a \$40,000 surplus.

8. **Strategic Priority #1 (Hospitality and Welcoming):** Joe noted that of the \$1,029,000 goal for this priority, \$910,000 had been pledged, and over \$500,000 had been received as of June 1. The board has approved committing funding for the following “hospitality of place” projects previously discussed in congregational meetings and other settings:

- A fellowship station (additional visual information on easel displays)
- Plant-scaping (Marianne Pletcher’s faithful volunteer tending of current CMC plants noted with gratitude.)
- Gathering Room “warming kitchen”
- Exterior lettering on the building and above doors
- Moving the limestone cross back to in front of the West Entrance

Joe also briefly described several larger projects under consideration: an electronic sign (designs available over several Sundays), a window wall in the Gathering Room, and a porte-cochere for the south or southwest entrance. Joe thanked Caryl Guth for the many hours of time and expertise she has contributed to researching and managing details of these ideas.

9. **Other business:** None.

10. **Adjournment:** After offering a closing prayer, Joe adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Recorder: Bill Clemens

Attendance: 70

Next meeting: August 19, 4 p.m.