

**College Mennonite Church
Minutes – Congregational Meeting
August 19, 2018, 4:00 pm, Fellowship Hall**

1. **Opening:** Joe Springer opened the meeting at 4:02 p.m. and offered an opening prayer.
2. **Review of Minutes:** Bill Clemens reviewed the minutes of the June 17, 2018 congregational meeting. There were no corrections, and those minutes were approved.
3. **Action Item: Proposed amendments to CMC Bylaws:** Joe introduced and explained the proposed amendments that were to be voted on this evening. Members had previously been given handouts listing and further explaining the proposed amendments. He observed that the bylaws contain the congregation's most concise description of how members want the congregation to function as an organization. Bylaws are also part of a legal requirement for CMC's identity as a nonprofit corporation. The last major revision of the bylaws was in 2012. Joe thanked the members of a bylaws review committee (John Yordy, Lovina Rutt, and George Smucker) that worked last fall/winter to identify possible revisions. The board-recommended amendments circulated beginning July 18 are the product of the recommendations of the bylaws review committee, church board review, and additional input from the congregation. In addition to board recommendations, members also received on July 18 additional bylaws amendments proposed by congregational member Leonard Gross. Those additional amendments were also to be voted on this evening.
 - The initial step was to move the adoption of the overall amendments, then allow Leonard to introduce his additional amendments and have them voted on.
 - Joe Springer moved that the congregation adopt the proposed amendments to the College Mennonite Church Bylaws. Bill Miller seconded.
 - Joe then invited Leonard to introduce his three additional amendments. After each one, time was allowed for discussion, and then we had hand votes on each. A 'Yes' vote was for the amendment, a 'No' vote was against the amendment.
 - Leonard introduced his **first** proposed amendment (**Change wording in VII, Section 2, b (lines 151, 152) to be 'The Church Board, accountable to the Congregation, shall oversee and coordinate the implementation of College Mennonite Church's vision, policy and programs, as established by the Congregation in meeting.'**)Discussion and vote:
 - Leonard: This removes the use of the word 'governance' in that section. He noted that the congregation had not used that word for a hundred years before the 2012 bylaws revision that included it. Dictionary definitions of 'governance' suggest connotations of authority not consonant with our congregational polity of servant-leadership.

- Becky Horst: There are other dictionary definitions of ‘governance’ that differ from the one Leonard cited. In our bylaws, ‘governance’ is not used in a political sense.
- John Lederach: Why stick with an offending word?
- Becky Horst: The purpose of this vote is to determine how much controversy there is about the use of the word ‘governance’. We are a legal entity and the use of the word ‘governance’ is common in the business/legal world.
- Seth Yoder – The board takes seriously the recommendations of the congregation. The board has come up with these recommendations; I hope we can trust in the board’s judgment.
- Vote on the 1st amendment: **Yes – 13, No – 29. The amendment did not pass.**
- Leonard introduced his **second** proposed amendment (Eliminate **wording in VII, Section 2, d (line 163) ‘Making some decisions on behalf of the congregation.’** Discussion and vote:
 - Leonard: This is a strange addition. ‘Making some decisions’ limits the church board. If this phrase stays in, we need to define which decisions the board makes.
 - Don Blosser – Does this amendment imply that the board has no right to make decisions?
 - Phyllis Stutzman: Line 165 covers that.
 - Vote on the 2nd amendment: **Yes – 5, No – 28. The amendment did not pass.**
- Leonard introduced his **third** proposed amendment (**Change wording in VII, Section 3, a (lines 197 and 198) to be ‘Commissions are accountable to the Congregation through the Church Board, which oversees and coordinates the work of the commissions.’**)

Discussion and vote:

 - Joe Springer - the intent of the 2012 wording in this section was to make the Church Board less of a funnel for everything.
 - Vote on the 3rd amendment: **Yes – 3, No – 30. The amendment did not pass.**
 - Leonard then asked to offer another amendment to the bylaws. Joe responded that under CMC Bylaws provisions for amendments it would not be possible to act on any amendment that had not circulated in writing for at least a month prior to action. He suggested that Leonard write up and submit what he would like the board and congregation consider at a future date.
 - Joe then allowed time for discussion on the original board-recommended proposed revisions:

Discussion and Vote:

 - Rebecca Sommers: Thanks to all who worked on this.

- Kathryn Aeschliman: Are the activities of the volunteer pastoral staff addressed in the by-laws?
- Joe Springer: No, they are not addressed by a separate policy (with procedures shared with and affirmed earlier by the congregation [e.g. Nov. 22, 2015 congregational meeting])
- John Hershberger: In the review of the by-laws, was there any discussion about associate versus affiliate member status definitions?
- George Smucker: We tried to clarify definitions of those statuses.
- Vote: **The proposed board-recommended revisions to the bylaws were approved unanimously by hand vote.**

4. General Fund Report: Joe reported that preliminary figures show the congregation received \$19,360 over the 2017-2018 Spending Fund Goal. He also noted that the congregation also received over \$400,000 in Special Fund contributions in the past fiscal year as well as substantial gifts to the Vision Campaign.

5. Commission Terms Completed: Joe thanked persons completing commission terms.

- Bruce Stahly (6 years on Administration Commission and Amity Board)
- Anita Stalter (2 years on Administration Commission)
- Lou Ann Good (6 years on Community Life Commission)
- Carolyn G. Hertzler (6 years on Outreach Commission)
- Justin Yoder (2 years on Outreach Commission)

Joe also reported that two members are leaving the Church Board. David Lapp-Jost is leaving in the middle of his term due to departure for a service assignment overseas. Linda Christophel has accepted the call to complete the final year of David's term. Rosalyn Troiano had initially accepted the call to serve a new 2-year term but a change in employment responsibilities necessitated her declining. The Board is in the process of contacting other individuals in order of votes received in the congregation's spring balloting for congregational representatives.

6. CMC Student Aid Report: This report was presented by Don Ebersole and Scott Litwiller. Don reported key dates in the CMC Student Aid Fund history.

- 1983 – Student Aid Plan began.
- 2006 – Bethany Christian Schools initiated a Partnership Plan, necessitating CMC to commit to funding at a 70 % level.
- 2008 - A major donation from a CMC member's estate increased the resources available.
- 2014 – Scholarship support needed to be reduced to lower levels.

There continues to be strong interest in families and students for attending Christian schools.

Scott reported that the number of students supported yearly has been consistently in the 20-25 student range. In 2018, the cost to fund the 25 students we have in this plan is \$124,000.

Members of the Student Aid Plan Committee are Scott Litwiller, Don Ebersole, Lori Copsey, Lori Hochstedler, Del King, Matt Lind, and Tim Drescher.

Joe encouraged the Committee to hold open meetings this fall regarding the plan.

- 7. Pastoral Review Process:** Joe reported that the Board is reviewing the Pastoral Review Process, seeking to determine if it is being done in ways that effectively serve CMC and its pastors. There will be a fuller introduction of this in the fall, but among the changes planned will be the use of polling to validate ongoing ministry, and the implementation of term reviews after four years instead of five.
- 8. Exterior Electronic Sign Plans:** Joe briefly reported on status of this project. The original site planned for an electronic sign is not possible without zoning changes. Options for upgrading the current monument sign are being explored. Online polling will be used to determine congregational preferences.
- 9. Other Business:** No other business items were brought to the meeting.
- 10. Table Discussion Time:** Attendees at tables were asked to continue the process begun in the morning worship service of identifying and sharing instances where the CMC church community had:
 - Given them new understandings
 - Provided a sense of belonging or shared purpose
 - Provided care and support in a time of need.After ten minutes of discussion, representatives of some tables reported their discussion to the larger group.
- 11. Adjournment:** Joe adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Recorder: Bill Clemens

Attendance: 59

Next meeting: November 18, 4 p.m.