

**College Mennonite Church**  
**Minutes – Congregational Meeting**  
**January 27, 2019, 4 pm, Fellowship Hall**

1. **Opening:** Joe Springer opened the meeting at 4:03 p.m. He noted that at this meeting we were focusing on questions and issues related to our Strategic Priority # 1 (Hospitality and Welcoming).
2. **Review of Minutes:** Bill Clemens reviewed the minutes of the November 18, 2018, congregational meeting. They were approved as written.
3. **Opening Song and Prayer:** Becky Horst led in the singing of three verses of the hymn “This Little Light of Mine” (HWB #401). Justin Yoder of the Hospitality Committee then led in a prayer.
4. **Hospitality Committee Updates:** Becky further introduced the committee and its work. The committee members are Becky Horst, Sue Neeb, Justin Yoder, Carol Grieser, Tina Hartman, and Larry Yoder. She then asked David Maldonado to share further from his research into community attitudes towards College Mennonite Church. David reported:
  - Two Honduran families have joined us and have loved their CMC experience, and stay with us for that reason. They like the warm welcome they receive, the smiles, the name tags, and the opportunities for their young girls. They also like the music and Phil’s preaching.
  - We need to spread the word about our congregation.
5. **First Table Discussion:** In our first table discussion, we were asked to focus on three questions:
  - What drew you to attend College Mennonite Church?
  - What do others say when they hear you attend College Mennonite Church?
  - What have you heard other persons in our community say about College Mennonite Church?

The following observations were shared with the larger group:

- There is a wide spectrum of reasons for attending: coming after graduating from GC, feeling a cultural affinity with the congregation, being newcomers to area and looking for a church, etc.
- Some of us came first because of the many opportunities for children here.
- People connect in many ways – some just take the worship bulletin and leave, some join us only by radio and internet.
- Many have shared stories about the impact that **being greeted** can have.
- One couple invited friends to our worship who had pre-conceived notions about this congregation and what they experienced blew away those old notions in a positive way.
- Other events held here, such as “The Festival of Carols”, significantly touched friends of one couple.

- 6. Introducing new people to our CMC Community:** Sue Neeb introduced a couple of concepts from a book *What Every Pastor Should Know* by Gary McIntosh and Charles Arn. That book suggests hospitable churches need two types of events to draw in new people:
- **Entry Events** (one-time events such as our Christmas Eve service to which allows members to invite guests). Sue gave an example of an entry event: a “car show” that we could hold in our parking lot on a Saturday.
  - **Side-Door Events** (ongoing church-sponsored events - often around specific interests - to which non-members can comfortably be invited). Our Men’s Fellowship regular meetings might be an example of this type of event.
- 7. Second Table Discussion:** In this second discussion we focused on three questions:
- What are entry events and side-door events at other congregations that might fit at College Mennonite Church?
  - Do we already have some of those types of events that we can build on?
  - What events would be fun for our community and meet needs in our community?

After the table discussions finished, the following comments and ideas were shared with the full group:

- Have a CMC movie night or festival where movies with underlying Christian themes (such as redemption, forgiveness, etc.) could be knowledgeably introduced, shown, and followed with a guided discussion.
- Let us restart the all-church picnic.
- We need a rec room (that is not a hallway) where parents can leave children when here for an entry event or side-door event (needs to be in proximity to event location, e.g. Koinonia Room space might work well if an event is in Fellowship Hall)
- Offer Spanish/English classes (for native speakers of both languages)
- Have an Easter egg hunt during Lent.
- Host chess competitions, cooking competitions, and music festivals with many stages.
- Let’s have more CMC member presence at CCYC events.
- Invite the care-givers for Angel Tree Children and the children here for a food event.
- Is there anything wrong with CMC hosting activities that have no religious content?
- The events we are suggesting can build bridges that are useful when crises happen.

David Maldonado encouraged us to ask several questions in thinking about events: What types of events give us exposure? Which events build relationships? Which events meet religious needs?

- 8. Other Business:** No other business items were offered.
- 9. Adjournment:** After we sang one verse of “This Little Light of Mine”, Becky adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Recorder: Bill Clemens

Attendance: 58

Next meetings: TBD (March/April for CMC Board representatives election;

June 9 or 16 to consider 2019/20 CMC Ministries Fund proposal)