

First Mennonite Church Council Minutes
April 16, 2018

Present: Darrell Basinger, Ken Wermuth, Thomas Addison, Kevin Smeltzer, Ryan Ahlgrim, Barbara Bowman, Joe Sprunger, Tina Eshleman

1. Meditation/Prayer – Kevin
Minutes – Barbara
2. Minutes for March meeting approved
3. New Business
 - a. The new PC's purchased for the Pastor and Secretary are up and running without trouble. The old PC's will be re-purposed or recycled in a way to avoid any misuse of data stored on the hard drives. The Secretary's old PC will be held until the end of May to be sure all files and contacts were indeed transferred. Darrell will take care of destroying the hard drive and take the PC to recycling. Ryan and Council approved future use of the Pastor's old laptop PC in the church library. The PC will be available at the end of May. Ryan is holding on to the PC to be sure his files and contacts have been transferred to his new PC. Stan Nickel will install a Linux based operating system overwriting data currently on the hard drive. The library data base Stan Nickel created will be available once again for all to use.
 - b. Members inquired about the best practice in collecting and passing on to the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer fund raising gifts, keeping the donation amounts confidential. Council suggest those leading fund raising activities follow the usher's process when collecting Sunday's offering providing the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer with the funds and a note stating the total cash amount received and simply the number of checks to be deposited. Members also have the option of placing a sealed envelope with their donation and note referencing the fund raising event in the Treasurer's church mailbox.
 - c. It was decided that the formation of the Abundance Giving ad-hoc committee should commence and possible candidates were discussed. The focus will be on projects, missions and bequests. The existing capital projects and outreach mission list may be used as a starting point.
 - d. Council affirmed Ken's suggestion that Outreach encourages FMCs participation in the RISC Nehemiah Action Assembly (April 30, 7-8:30) to learn more about RISC (Richmonders Involved to Strengthen our Communities) - posted on bulletin board.
 - e. Next congregational meeting is set for (Sunday) June 10, 2018 following the worship service with a fellowship meal.
4. Old Business
 - a. At the request of MLT Ryan has submitted inquiries to area seminaries for student interns to assist FMC, potentially, in the areas of youth, music or local mission connections. Typically, a student would work within the congregation for the school year. Hours and specific responsibilities would vary. It was requested that this be a budget item for next year.

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5. Commission Reports

a. **Outreach – Ken**

Lamb's Basket- 78# food collected in the little red wagon. (Maybe we could do a children's story or have a collection on the aisle again to increase awareness.)

PULSE- Pittsburg Urban Leadership Service Experience -where Kaylee Ferguson is serving for a one year term received a \$400. gift from First Menno Outreach. Their goal is to cultivate a community of young servant leaders by inviting talented college graduates to partner with nonprofit organizations for the long term improvement of Pittsburg and the youth who volunteer.

Yard Sale on April 14th raised over \$600.00 for sending the youth to the next convention. Menno Bucks also raised over \$250.00 in donations to date.

We have a generous church family and we have funds in reserve that could be used for various outreach projects. The challenge we face is how to engage the congregation on new missions? What is the will of the people? What can we do as a church to better our community?

b. **Buildings and Grounds – Thomas**

On-going projects

- landscape alternatives
- Seeking alternative quotes to manage the grounds
- Connect with current landscaper to review projects
- Planting and managing flowers in addition to mowing
- Recommend Part Time B&G Person
- Playground renovation
- Connect with Ava on cleaning checklist. Expand duties as necessary
- Spring Clean Up Schedule Possible Saturday April 28- Change to May
- Trim the trees around the perimeter

Completed since last Council meeting

- Siding repair completed
- Noise occurs when LED lights are turned on in Sanctuary - contacted contractor to understand why. Do the dimmers match the lights? - Per Chris Yoder, this is normal. The noise should not increase in the future.

Future Maintenance

- Get a crew to fill cracks in parking lot
- Fix Crack in sanctuary ceiling

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- Spring HVAC check- Need to schedule full service

c. Stewardship – Kevin

1. March Financial Numbers (Final):

a. March was the end of first quarter 2018 FMC budget.

b. March financial position as of 3/31/2018:

- Income \$\$2,007 over budget
- Expenses \$1,245 over budget (qtr. checks.)

c. March expense of note:

- Daryl Davis net \$780 expense in 'Special Events'
- Spring Retreat about \$100 over budget
- \$2530 spent to upgrade secretary PC and pastor laptop.

d. March Fund Balances of note:

- Insurance Check for \$4798.98 deposited into **Long Term Maintenance Fund**.
- Water Pipe damage expenses: \$2,692
- Sanctuary lighting Abundance Giving expense of \$2,981

2. April Financial Numbers (4/15/18):

- Income \$\$9,627 under budget (2 of 5 Sunday offerings recorded)
- Expenses \$7,403 under budget (15 of 30 days into April)

3. Abundance Giving Projects

- Lighting project nearing completion of current phase, at ~\$100 over amount approved in Church Budget Meeting. Several changes increased expense, while providing additional value for FMC. (Last of 2017 Abundance Giving Projects.)
- Secretary's PC, and Pastor's Laptop project completed.
- Painting projects continue. (Water damage provided insurance funds to address several additional painting needs.)

Playground enhancements waiting on spring, and several decisions.

d. Ministerial Leadership – Ryan

Ryan met with Rabbi Knopf of Temple Beth-El and had a fruitful conversation. He is open to some sort of engagement between our two congregations. The MLT suggested the possibility of a dialogue with their congregation for our next Spring Gathering. Ryan will discuss possibilities with the rabbi.

The Daryl Davis event at Speaking Spirit Ministries was well received. Though we had hoped for larger attendance, it was still more than what we could have fit into our own sanctuary. Davis charged us half his regular fee, plus \$50 for gas. Two-thirds of the total cost was covered by the offering and payment by SSM. MLT is wondering what further collaborations we may have with SSM.

Valerie Wermuth has agreed to be the FMC representative on the search committee for a new district minister.

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David Brubaker, Director of Organizational and Leadership Studies at EMU, will be our input speaker at the Fall Retreat. He has expertise on the topic we have chosen: "Being a Christian Community in an Increasingly Polarized World." The retreat will begin on Friday evening (instead of Saturday), and conclude at noon on Sunday. MLT decided to not have WCRC provide a boxed lunch on Sunday.

e. Worship – Barbara

March 19/April 9 Highlights

- Affirmation for Palm Sunday; Love Feast with foot/hand washing (about 24 in attendance); Easter Services (8:00 and 11:00) including a large attendance at breakfast; Bread Service.
- Good FMC representation at Maundy Thursday service with Chamberlayne Baptist Church and will look for ways to encourage more to participate in joint choir next year.
- Appreciation for those who participated in the Bread Service: Hazel Bowman, Tina Eshleman, Jean Oswald, Curt Holsopple, Tyree Webster, and Jim Miesner
- Committee discussed and approved rental of sanctuary (only) for wedding for April 20, 2019 (day before Easter)

Ongoing

- Progress being made for guest speakers during Ryan's sabbatical including persons from within and outside the congregation. Dates unfilled: July 8, July 22 and Aug 12.
- Encouraging youth to be part of services in ways they feel comfortable – drama, arts, visuals.

Upcoming

- Surveying parents with nursery age children if providing childcare for special events and services would be helpful to them.
- Mother's Day (May 13) – recognizing women in scripture / important mother-figures in our lives.
- Pentecost (May 20)– incorporating various languages/ encourage congregation to wear red

f. Chair Elect – Joe

No new items to report

g. Education - Tina

Children/Youth Commission (Rachel Beckler)

Bible School information:

Peace Camp, 2018 " Be a Peacemaker"

Sponsors: FMC and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Linda Willis as the staff person

- August 6-9, 9:00 to 12:30, Mon – Wed, then Thursday 9-5 for kids K-5th graders with a middle school class, with a preschool class for children of adults that help.

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- The curriculum will be based on Peace Lab, the Mennonite VBS materials for 2018.
- The extended day on Thursday will feature a service project for the middle schoolers. The elementary age children will have a rest time, an onsite service project and water play.
- A celebration dinner will be served for the families on Thursday.

Youth continue with fundraising efforts which are needed for the upcoming Youth Convention 2019. The recent church yard sale collected over \$600 to help the youth. Their next fundraiser is a lunch after church on May 6 with donations going toward this cause.

Teachers Needed: There is presently a search for those interested in teaching our children and youth during the upcoming 2018-2019 Sunday School year, beginning in September. Particular needs are for the preschool class (2-4 year olds) and the youth class. Finding additional teachers allows for the use of co-teaching; which is a desirable way of sharing the teaching responsibility throughout the year and provides the opportunity for teachers to also experience Adult Sunday School classes.

Adult Education Commission (Tina Eshleman)

Thomas Addison is teaching a class based on the book “The Color of Law,” with assistance from Craig Wilson (who is also helping with the biblical literacy class.) A dozen or more people have been attending.

For the combined summer class, I’m thinking of asking guest speakers who can talk about some of the efforts to address issues that have been brought up in the “Advocating for Justice” class as well as “The Color of Law” and our previous class on race relations.

6. Upcoming Events

April 30 - RISC Nehemiah Action Assembly
June 10 - Congregational Meeting
August 6-9 - Bible School

Next Council Meetings:
May 23
June 18

Next Council meeting assignments:
Devotional - Thomas
Minutes - Joe