

Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship
Congregational Meeting Minutes
Sunday, August 16, 2020, 10:20 AM

Opening

Shirley Dick opened by reading the vision statement. Approximately 60 people were in attendance via a Zoom meeting.

Review of May Minutes

Merrill Krabill motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Doug Baker. The minutes were then approved with 100% approval rating of those voting via a Zoom poll.

Covid-19 Mission Commission Allocations Update

The COVID-19 Fund had \$10,000 from the Mission Commission and \$2,000 from an anonymous donor. \$7,000 of this has been distributed. \$3,500 went to the COVID-19 Congregational Relief Fund and \$3,500 went to MCC. The budget surplus from last year's budget of \$6000 was allocated to the Mission Commission. They used \$3,000 for The Center for Healing and Hope and \$3,000 for The Window for the Goshen Eats program.

The Anabaptist Disabilities Network Mennonite Church USA Accessibility Resolution to MC USA.

Berkey will be a sponsoring congregation for an Accessibility Resolution that will be considered at MennoCon 2021. Its purpose is to help all members of MCUSA remove barriers to belonging and participating in church life. We are one of five congregations sponsoring the resolution.

Reports from Stewardship and Finance, Mission, and Caregiving Commissions

Shirley presented on behalf of these commissions. The purpose of these reports is to ensure the congregation knows the operating of the commissions before we do the congregational review.

Stewardship and Finance

This commission's purpose is to “promote the spiritual practice of stewardship in the congregation” through overseeing the budget process, monitoring the finances of the church, and overseeing church facilities. Members are Dave Birky, Missy Kauffman Schrock, Dale Snyder, Aaron Wieand, and Dan Schrock. Their subcommittees and appointees include custodians, offering counters, treasurers, and trustees. Their mission is to support the congregation and ensure that resources are available and stewarded to facilitate the important work of the commissions and the church. The congregation can support this commission by providing financial support, sharing ideas and/or questions, and prayer. S&F wants to know how to best support individuals individually and the congregation as a whole. Shirley reminded us that giving has been down and asked if we would consider giving by mailing checks to the office or other ways.

Mission Commission

This mission looks outward to our community. The current members are Darin Short and Jenny Miller, Laura Horst, Rafael Barahona, and Joanne Gallardo. Starting in September, the members will be Rafael Barahona, Laura Horst, Caitlin Lanctot, Laura Moshier, and Joanne Gallardo. Their theme for the year is immigration support, which fits with our church goal of “striving to live Christ's caring and healing presence.” They have partnered with local agencies to aid immigrants in our community. They have provided COVID-19 relief this year to Goshen's

immigrant community. They also support the Goshen Eats Program. Additionally, they are involved with the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI). SLT members and others have completed this inventory and have heard the results for those who completed the inventory.

Their appointees include Greeter Coordinator, Mission Bulletin Board Coordinator, MCC Relief Sale Coordinators, and Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network communication. They are also representatives to Habitat for Humanity, La Casa, Mennonite Economic Development Association, Mennonite Disaster Service, Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes, Peace Justin, and Social Concerns, and Center for Healing and Hope. Church members can support this commission by completing an immigration support survey this fall.

Caregiving Commission

This commission's current members are Connie Bauman, Caitlin Lanctot, Sarah Morrison, and John Schrock. Starting in September, the members will be Connie Bauman, John Schrock, Sarah Morrison, Jenny Yoder, and Mark Schloneger. Their mission is "nurturing faith through compassion and caring" through caring for individuals within our church. They do this through care groups, sharing and prayer time during the weekly service, shepherding concerns and identifying ways to help with needs. Much of their work is behind the scenes due to confidentiality. Their committees and appointees are Agape, Everence Advocate, Safe Church Caring Team, Small Group Coordinating Committee, Meals Coordinator, Extending our Care Team, and Stephen Ministry.

Someone asked what the Extending our Care Team is. Shirley answered that it was formerly called the Special Needs Committee. It is a team that works to make sure we can include all people within our congregation.

Budget for the Coming Fiscal Year

Aaron Wieand reviewed the July year-to-date financial statements and presented the proposed budget for the 2020/2021 fiscal year. The proposed budget has decreased from the draft budget reviewed with the congregation in May due to decreased giving. Specifically, the church retreat budget is reduced as it is unlikely to happen this fall. Increases include pastors' salaries, the elders' budget and the Stephen Minister training budget. The new budget is virtually identical to the size of the current fiscal year budget and gets us to a break even budget.

Someone wanted to know the percentage increase for the pastors' salaries. We followed MCUSA guidelines to increase pastor salaries by 1.8%.

Stewardship and Finance brought the motion that we approve this budget. Sherm Kauffman seconded it. The budget was then approved with 100% approval rating of those voting via a Zoom poll.

Other

Berkey Outdoor Gatherings

Shirley shared that an email will be forthcoming with an update on how a limited number of people can begin meeting in an outside spot. Dan Nafziger and Paul Shetler Fast are offering their expertise in this area.

Closing

Meeting adjourned at 10:50

Jenny Yoder, Recorder