

Church Council Meeting
Wednesday, June 14, 2017

Present: Tim Martin Johnson (HRC), Elaine Shenk (HRC), Bryan Geib (Deacon), Rebecca Weber (Deacon), Dorianna Lordi (Administrative Assistant), Amanda Esh Bouwman (Elder), Nick Lordi (Elder), Lorie Hershey (Pastor), Mark Michalovic (Elder), Laurie Callan (Elder)

Absent: Betsy Sneller (HRC), Lenny Thompson (Deacon)

Tim began meeting at 7:05 p.m. with prayer.

1. Minutes of March meeting approved via email
2. Committee reports
 - HRC: Some current ministry vacancies, including both positions for fellowship meal. No one has offered to volunteer for any open ministry positions right now. One suggestion for the youth sponsor opening was to ask specific people to fulfill the coordinator or administrator role.
 - Deacons: No items to report.
 - Elders: Working on a follow up to the worship & politics Sunday school discussion. Elders will follow up with worship committee then congregation.
3. Report from anti-racism training
 - Rebecca shared that it was thought provoking and shared some exercises and topics that were addressed at the training. She also spoke about the training addressing the roots of racism and its relationship to our country. Training emphasized the importance of being in accountable relationships with people of color.
 - Currently in the process of discussing next steps to take for the congregation.
 - A movie screening series and discussion is beginning this weekend.
 - Lorie shared some insights from the training. Including that it is valuable to be in partnerships with others such as neighbors, POWER, community, and Anabaptist networks.
 - As an institution, we need to address racism and how to become anti-racist. Lorie also discussed some structures of racism and how some internalize it and how some respond to it.
 - The group that attended the training are accountable to the Elders and are recommending a future congregational conversation about institutional racism and our own identity as a congregation.
4. Financial Situation
 - Rebecca shared that offering giving has been below budget for some time. It was discussed at the last budget meeting. We are at a point of continued deficit.
 - An announcement will be made in church.

- Church council recognized that this concern should not be fully burdened on the deacons.
 - A letter from council will be distributed to the congregation with details about our current financial situation.
 - Rebecca distributed a draft of the letter and church council made minor suggestions.
 - There are various reasons for deficit, including that the budget expenses have increased.
 - This will also be discussed at mid-year check in on July 16.
5. Building Update
- Some shared impressions regarding space from recent meeting at the children's community school. Main concern was the size for larger groups. It worked well for the congregational meeting and would like to use it on occasion for meeting.
 - Council discussed a couple of building options and concerns. One current option is for afternoons on Sunday.
 - No current prospects for Sunday mornings that are an appropriate size.
 - Dorianna will continue to look in the neighborhood and let council know if any spaces seem appropriate.
 - Eventually, we will discuss with congregation, not enough information collected yet.
6. Follow-up from congregational meeting
- Some shared their impressions from meeting on June 4th. Some felt the conversation was great. Some felt that it was okay that no official decision was made because it created a space for people to share without pressure.
 - Some discussion about how other congregations may be approaching this.
 - Council will now construct a proposal regarding being welcoming to present to the church. Lorie will work on crafting a letter for council to review. The letter will be distributed to the church by July 2nd. Then we will have a congregational meeting two weeks later.
 - Council decided to have a two-part congregational meeting on July 16, first will be budget meeting. Second part will be response to the June 4th discussion.
7. Next meeting – Wednesday, September 13

Council meeting concluded at 8:35 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Dorianna Lordi, Administrative Assistant.