

West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 2, 2015

Present: Lorie Hershey (Pastor), Alex Esh Bouwman (Deacon/Council chair), Tim Martin Johnson (HRC), Reuben Wetherbee (HRC), Brenda Rich (Elder), Nick Lordi (Elder), Brooke Blough (Deacon), Dorianna Lordi (Administrative Assistant)

Minutes recorded by Dorianna Lordi

Meeting began with prayer at 7:02 p.m.

1. Approved May 13, 2015 meeting minutes.

2. HRC Items

a. Ministry Position Vacancies

- In the process of filling HRC vacancy
- Joe Syzdek is new Small group coordinator

3. Deacons Items

a. Elevator project

- Calvary Community Center hired Linford to start Elevator project
- No mention of bathrooms, deacons will follow up

b. Divestment Follow-up

- Deacons are currently looking into divestments away from fossil fuels

c. New Sign Outside

- Deacons are looking into updating the church sign to be consistent with our new logo
- Possibility of just getting a vinyl overlay

4. Pastoral Team Items

a. Child Protection Policy Updated

- New law requires that all volunteers be a mandated reporter
- Currently updating the child protection policy to make sure we are consistent with new laws
- Lorie explained some of the edits that the Elders will need to approve
- Laurie, Brenda, Brooke, Lorie, and Dorianna met twice to discuss policy and plans
- Brenda offered two trainings for volunteers, plan to offer more
- Dorianna will be working with Lorie to ensure all volunteers are meeting requirements
- Lorie introduced an application and disclosure statement for all volunteers

b. Discussion on Point person/HRC for Child Protection Policy

- Discussed the possibility of a child protection policy point person to be a member of the human resource committee

- HRC agreed to have one of them be responsible for the child protection policy procedures
- Part of new role would be to direct new and current volunteers to Administrative Assistant

5. Misc. Items

a. Recovery Housing Proposal

- Nick shared vision of his recovery housing proposal
- Goal is to create a home for people who "fall through the cracks"
- Council asked questions and discussed some of the details involved

Next Church Council meeting is scheduled for November 11th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Alex concluded meeting at 8:27 p.m.