

West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship
Church Council Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2015

Present: Alex Esh Bouwman (Deacon/Council chair), Bryan Geib (Deacon), Brooke Blough (Deacon), Brenda Rich (Elder), Mark Michalovic (Elder), Tim Martin Johnson (Human Resources), Reuben Wetherbee (Human Resources), Lorie Hershey (Pastor), Dorianna Lordi (Administrative Assistant)

Absent: Ken Beidler (Elder), Laurie Callen (Elder), Emily Leischner (Human Resources)

Meeting Begins at 7:10 p.m. with prayer led by Tim.

1. Approved minutes from February 12, 2015 Council meeting.
2. HRC items
 - a. Elder selection
 - Nick Lordi agreed to serve.
 - Other nominees declined, currently waiting on one response
 - b. HRC Vacancy
 - Debby Scott agreed to serve.
 - c. Ministry position vacancies
 - Several positions open such as Librarian, Nursery Coordinator, Fellowship meal, Additional Youth advisor
 - Planning to have a flyer with open positions in bulletin
3. Deacon items
 - No items to report
4. Pastoral team items
 - a. Update on meeting with John Stoltzfus, Franconia Conference Youth Minister
 - Talked about baptism, membership, and current opportunities for youth to talk about this and their faith. Lorie will continue to be in touch with John as a resource.
 - Talked about importance of web of care with John, that would include one youth to five adults.
 - b. Church Retreat Committee
 - Formed a church retreat committee to help Laurie Callen. Committee includes: Heather Swanson and Amanda Esh Bouwman
5. Misc. items
 - a. Organizational document update
 - Reuben will email council approved document to Dorianna to save.
 - Alex will let Dorianna know when to email organizational documents out to congregation for approval. This needs to be done prior to May 24, 2015.
 - b. Follow-up on congregational discussion and council meeting at Wetherbee's.
 - Focus on Structure
 - Focus on intergenerational outreach programs
 - Discussed what is most critical

- Need to find existing community groups to serve with rather than spearhead a new group such as Turning points for children, Habitat for humanity, empty lot projects, volunteering at schools, etc.
- Important to put connection person in announcements for events and community outreach
- Current structure is not sustainable long term, need to focus on building up instead of maintaining
- Alex handed out examples of other churches structures and explained
- Discussed options for a structure that supports, utilizing the elders, and providing ways for people to belong
- Decided to group ministries into categories that one member each of the pastoral team will support
- Ensure that structure connects to our vision and purpose
- Alex and Brenda will work on outline and an announcement for congregation

6. Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 2, at 7:00pm.

Meeting concluded at 8:30pm.