

West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship  
Congregational Meeting  
July 16, 2017

Elizabeth Hamilton began meeting at 10:46 a.m. by outlining the agenda and prayer.

1. Deacons – Mid-year check-in

- Rebecca Weber explained budget handout (see addendum).
- Noted that as of June 2017, we are at 83% of budget giving.
- Down approximately \$14,000 in June. Though, the most recent offerings were significant and not reflected in the handout.
- Expenses are on track with budget amount.
- We currently have about \$50,000 in savings, designated to general use/operations.
- Some congregants asked brief questions and the deacons responded.

2. Affirmation Meeting

- At 10:53 a.m., Tim Martin Johnson explained purpose of this portion of the meeting and referred to handout (See addendum).
- Tim briefly explained history, beginning with process of affirming LGBTQ individuals as members of the congregation.
- Tim also discussed some processes and consequences that other congregations and pastors have dealt with.
- Explained process that would take place if we do reach agreement. Including that we will share our statement with Franconia conference board, by letter or meeting and request a response. We would like to be held accountable as a congregation and not place our pastor or individuals on the spot.
  
- At 11:01 a.m., Elizabeth explained the agenda for the remainder of the meeting, beginning with a time of discussion.
- Some congregants asked questions, including some regarding our relationship to Franconia conference and past experiences.
- Some congregants also expressed gratitude for being open and informative during this process.
- Some congregants shared experiences about the importance of being upfront and honest.
  
- At 11:20 a.m. the congregation broke into CDMs to discuss the following proposal: “Based on the discernment and discussion of the congregation on June 4, 2017, Church Council recommends that West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship include the officiating of marriage and pastoral care for same-sex couples by our pastor (present and future) as part of our calling to be a welcoming and affirming congregation.”
- At 11:39 a.m. consensus was reached with one abstention. Statement was accepted by congregation.
  
- After consensus was reached, one congregant shared their personal story, experience, and desire to be a part of a fully authentic community.

- Donations were collected for childcare.
- Congregation concluded meeting with prayer at 11:35 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Dorianna Lordi, Administrative Assistant.

Approximately 35 people in attendance.

Addendums:

## West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship 2017 Mid-Year Financial Update

	APPROVED 2017 Budget	Half of Approved Budget	January to June 2017 Actual	Difference	Notes
Regular Offerings	172,650	86,325	72,145	(14,180)	received 83.5% of annual budget
Interest & Dividends	1,500	750	3,138	2,388	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>174,150</b>	<b>87,075</b>	<b>75,283</b>	<b>(11,792)</b>	
Administration	6,200	3,100	3,339	239	
Adult Education	300	150	115	(35)	
Children's Ministry					
Jr/Sr Youth	200	100	14	(86)	
Mentor/Walk the Walk	1,100	550	38	(512)	
Sunday School	1,100	550	263	(287)	
Meeting Childcare	200	100	87	(13)	
Youth Convention	1,000	500	1,000	500	
Nursery	100	50	-	(50)	
<b>Total Children's Ministry</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>1,850</b>	<b>1,402</b>	<b>(448)</b>	
Community Outreach					
PICO/POWER	800	400	828	428	membership fee
Other Outreach	600	300	174	(126)	
<b>Total Community Outreach</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>1,002</b>	<b>302</b>	
Compensation					
Pastor Salary	50,238	25,119	25,119	-	Salary, Housing Allow, SE Tax Reimb
Pastor Benefits	35,099	17,550	17,783	233	Hlth, HSA, Disab, Retirem, Cont Ed
Pastor Expenses	2,650	1,325	1,074	(251)	Travel, Hospitality, Convention attend.
Sabbatical Pastor	1,650	825	825	-	
Admin Asst Salary	16,640	8,320	8,336	16	20 hrs/wk
Custodian	1,300	650	550	(100)	
Other Compensation	2,113	1,056	1,176	120	Payroll Taxes & Work Comp Insur.
<b>Total Compensation</b>	<b>109,690</b>	<b>54,845</b>	<b>54,863</b>	<b>18</b>	
Elders Expenses	1,300	650	1,188	538	
Hospitality	500	250	326	76	
Missions	17,500	8,750	4,850	(3,900)	10% of total income
Occupancy	27,960	13,980	13,692	(288)	
Retreats	4,500	2,250	3,593	1,343	
Worship	1,100	550	755	205	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>174,150</b>	<b>87,075</b>	<b>85,125</b>	<b>(1,950)</b>	
<b>Income less Expenses</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(9,842)</b>	<b>(9,842)</b>	

## West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship Mid-Year Check-In Additional Information

<b>Collection Plate Income</b>	<b>Summary Balance Sheet</b>	<u>6/30/2017</u>
2006 102,475	Checking, Savings & CDs	34,832
2007 113,115	Money Market (Reserve)	3
2008 116,503	Pax World Balanced Fund (Reserve)	30,052
2009 124,842	Pax Growth & Hi Yield Fund (Building)	<u>52,631</u>
2010 129,361	Total Assets	<u><u>117,518</u></u>
2011 132,955		
2012 138,069	<u>Restricted/Designated Funds</u>	
2013 149,411	Building Fund	52,631
2014 146,393	Sharing Fund/Mutual Aid	8,960
2015 156,164	Youth Fund	1,269
2016 159,788	Mennonite College Fund	2,245
	Redemption Housing Fund	1,550
	Sabbatical Fund	<u>825</u>
	Total Restricted/Desig Funds	<u>67,480</u>
<b>2017 Core Missions Organizations</b>		
	Unrestr./Undesign. Assets	<u>50,038</u>
Redemption Housing POWER	Total Liabilities & Net Assets	<u><u>117,518</u></u>



# west philadelphia mennonite fellowship

working for the shalom of the city

## Church Council Proposal for Congregational Meeting July 16, 2017

### Background:

In November 2012, we decided that membership and leadership within the congregation included persons of any sexual orientation. And so, chose to be publicly welcoming and affirming of LGBTQ community and register with the Brethren Mennonite Council of LGBT Interests in their Supportive Communities Network.

We did not amend our Organizational Document with that decision, but rather made a clarification of the membership policy and recorded that in the congregational meeting minutes. Here is the proposal that was affirmed Nov, 2012:

*Based on the discernment process described above and in prayerful consideration of where we sense God is leading our congregation, we as the pastoral team, are recommending that the congregation support a clarification of WPMF's membership policy as stated below:*

*We affirm that the phrase "Any person" does include persons of any sexual orientation. We understand living out one's sexuality with faithfulness and integrity to be part of the commitment to follow Jesus Christ as Lord. All members are welcomed and encouraged to participate fully in the life and leadership of the congregation.*

In May 2016, Pastor Lorie told Church Council that she was open to officiating a same-sex marriage if the congregation blesses that decision. Church Council decided to utilize the Congregational Review that fall to begin gathering the sense of the congregation around our pastor officiating a same-sex marriage.

In March 2017, Church Council made the decision to begin a broader congregational conversation and decision since the review only represented 30% of the current active adult attenders and members. So a Congregational Meeting on June 4, 2017 to continue building consensus. Follow this link for meeting minutes and Pastor Lorie's letter prior to the meeting: <http://www.wpmf.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Congregational-meeting-minutes-06-04-17.pdf>

### Proposal:

**Based on the discernment and discussion of the congregation on June 4, 2017, Church Council recommends that West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship include the officiating of marriage and pastoral care for same-sex couples by our pastor (present and future) as part of our calling to be a welcoming and affirming congregation.**

At the July 16<sup>th</sup> congregational meeting Church Council will provide additional information about next steps in working with Franconia Conference.