

West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship
Church Council Meeting
December 13, 2016

Present: Tim Martin Johnson (HRC, Council chair), Bryan Geib (Deacon), Lenny Thompson (Deacon), Dorianna Lordi (Administrative Assistant), Nick Lordi (Elder), Amanda Esh Bouwman (Elder), Lorie Hershey (Pastor)

Tim began meeting at 7:08 pm with prayer.

Lenny called Reuben Wetherbee and he participated via phone.

1. September meeting minutes were approved by email.
2. Building issues
 - Bryan and Lenny spoke for a few minutes about the building survey that was sent out to the congregation in September. Survey results were emailed to church council in November.
 - Deacons noted some themes from the survey, such as the church is not a building, faith, safety, and building issues.
 - It is apparent from the survey that there is little interest in WPMF owning its own building.
 - People who took the survey expressed positives and negatives regarding the building. Which makes it difficult to determine exactly what to do next from the survey results.
 - Council discussed various next steps and options. As well as several aspects that must be considered. And what we can do to make our space better, such as rearranging the church office and being in better communication with Calvary.
 - Council discussed the meeting that Lorie and Bryan had with Calvary building leadership on September 27, 2016.
 - Calvary center asked if someone from our congregation would like to serve on their board. Dorianna will email Calvary and find out details about board member requirements and guidelines. Tim will then contact perspective board members for Calvary's board.
 - At some point, we will need to engage in a congregational conversation about the building.
 - Tim had recently asked people to consider possible options, though they were not interested in helping. Lenny will try to form a group to look at building options and possibilities to get a better understanding of our needs and wants.
 - WPMF leadership and staff will work to be in better communication with Calvary.
 - We will ask Calvary who the contact is for Sundays. As immediate issues often arise on Sundays during service that need to be addressed.

- Council members will report progress and discuss more at the next council meeting.

At this point, Reuben shared for a moment and then needed to hang up, concluding his participation in the meeting.

3. Committee reports

- Deacons have nothing to report.
- HRC – Received 20 responses from congregational review, plan to meet with the committee and generate a report.
- Elders have nothing to report.

4. Report on Crossroads anti-racism training.

- Lorie and Tim attended the training and it was informative and helpful. Are now considering next steps for congregation.

5. Social Media

- Council discussed some other pages and groups and the main purpose of them. Noting that visitors use Facebook to find our church.
- Tim will make a verbal announcement in the coming weeks briefly explaining the page and asking for help maintaining it.

6. No other business to report.

7. Next church council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Dorianna Lordi.