

West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship  
Church Council Meeting ó February 12, 2015, 7:00 pm  
Meeting Minutes

All in Attendance:

Bryan Geib (deacon), Alex Esh Bouwman (deacon/church council chair), Brooke Blough (deacon), Tim Martin Johnson (HRC), Ken Beidler (Elder), Lorie Hershey (Pastor), Laurie Callan, (Elder), Emily Leischner (HRC), Dorianna Lordi (Administrative Assistant)

All in Absentia:

Mark Michalovic (Elder), Brenda Rich (Elder), Reuben Wetherbee (HRC)

Alex opened with prayer at 7:08 p.m.

I. Minutes from November 13, 2014 meeting approved via email

II. HRC Items:

- No items to discuss.

III. Deacons Items:

a. 2014 Financials

- Alex explained the 2014 financials as stated in the following bulletin announcement:
- WPMF ended 2014 with a budget surplus of \$3,300. Although offering giving was \$5,200 below budget, our expenses were below budget by \$3,000. Our high interest and dividends made up the remaining deficit and provided the surplus. The Shalom Fund had payments of \$5,500 in 2014, \$3,000 of which was a transfer to the mutual aid fund. Thank you for the many ways you support this church community spiritually, physically, and financially.

IV. Misc. items:

a. Sabbatical planning group

- Planning group met once and plan to meet again soon.
- Still aiming for Summer 2016 sabbatical.
- Deadline for application is April, 2015.

b. World cafe update

- Brooke, Lorie, Ken and Jenifer Eriksen Morales had a meeting.
- Discussed where our energy and time is needed in the congregation.
- Discussed what questions to ask during world cafe.
- World cafe (congregational discussion) is set for March 22nd, 2015 at Cedar Works.
- Will share with the congregation what the meeting is about and encourage them to attend.
- Several announcements need to be made before meeting in March.

c. Website Update

- Reviewed the new website, finishing touches are being made to complete website this month.
- d. Organizational document changes
- Reviewed the changes to the documents in May.

V. Pastoral Team Items:

a. Living into Welcome update

- Andy tried to start a group and only one person reached out to help so it was given back to the elders.
- Meeting is set with the attic.
- Joined the Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests, a \$200 yearly donation is suggested, Council approved.

b. Faith formation for youth & church retreat

- People noted in survey that they would like to see a youth mentor program.
- Need to connect Youth with Baptism and Communion.
- Discussed ways we can support our youth.
- During church retreat, Jane Hooper Peifer will share opportunities to mentor.
- Need to invite and educate our youth on baptism.
- Youth Sunday school class discusses heavy issues and youth are engaged in the conversations.
- Discussed ways to celebrate communion in a way that is more inclusive.
- There is a possibility of having a Worship or Sunday school series on Baptism and communion.

c. Elders retreat

- Pastoral team had a retreat January 17th, 2015 and stepped back to reflect on the last year and our vision prayer.
- Dreamt of being more visible in the community.

VI. Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 13 at 7:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Meeting minutes recorded by Dorianna Lordi.