

West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship

Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 10, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

Attendance: Tim Martin Johnson (Council Chair/HRC), Elaine Shenk (HRC), Matt MacNeill (HRC), Lorie Hershey (Pastor), Mark Michalovic (Elder), Nick Lordi (Elder), Amanda Esh Bouwman (Elder), Laurie Callan (Elder), Lenny Thompson (Deacon), Rebecca Weber (Deacon), Bryan Geib (Deacon), Dorianna Lordi (Administrative Assistant)

Notes recorded by Dorianna Lordi

1. Opening and prayer - Tim

- Tim began meeting at 7:00 p.m. with scripture and prayer.
- Matt MacNeill was welcome as the newest member of HRC/Council.
- Tim gave a brief overview of meeting.

2. Committee Reports

HRC

- Matt MacNeill is new member of HRC.
- Working on securing a useable temporary office space for staff while Calvary CCC is without heat.

Deacons

- WPMF ended up breaking even with our expenses for 2017.

Elders

- Elders have been discussing church retreat and tying in recent congregational focuses into retreat.
- Are aware and continuing conversations on needs during worship. Such as ways to be more welcoming and inviting toward various needs during worship.
- Are planning a parent enrichment seminar.

3. Update on Racism Conversations

- Lorie shared update about the recent anti-racism discussion groups.
- Lorie and Rebecca consolidated the responses from the anti-racism discussion groups and shared them with council.
- Lorie has been in discussion with crossroads. There is a possibility of crossroads meeting with a group of us from WPMF.
- One thought is to have an education seminar for our congregation.
- Invite people from our current neighborhood partnerships/relationships to the training to deepen relationships and build common analysis of racism i.e. POWER congregations in our region, Comegys' school staff and liaisons, etc.

- Focus on including the Bible in anti-racism training and discussions.
- A next step is for a group to meet with Kara from Crossroads and decide what to do next.
- The notes/feedback from the anti-racism discussion groups with an explanation will be emailed out to the google group.
- An announcement will be made during worship.

#### 4. Status of Building

- Marcy and Linford have offered a temporary office space in their home for Dorianna and Lorie to use.
- Deacons will follow up about the details of this space and plan to move soon.
- Wharton-Wesley UMC has offered their space for us until Calvary CCC is back up and running.
- Tim and other council members will meet with Wharton-Wesley leadership to discuss details and availability for Sunday school rooms and other needs.
- WPMF will have its worship services at Wharton-Wesley until further notice.
- It is time to look at and consider other building options to meet our long-term needs. As every building will have its positives and negatives.
- An announcement will be sent out to the church asking for volunteers who are willing to explore building options. Lenny will help coordinate this along with Dorianna and the Deacons.
- Dorianna will create an online survey aiming to better understand building values and needs of individuals within the congregation and send to council.
- Large heaters for common areas do not heat bathrooms and all the classrooms. Lorie will communicate to Calvary what are needs are to begin worshiping at Calvary CCC again.
- Financials were briefly discussed about this short-term transition.

#### 5. Conference

- Tim gave a brief update about the response we received from Franconia conference regarding our congregation's decision to affirm the possibility of our Pastor officiating a same-sex marriage.
- Franconia conference gave us a clear response in their letter.
- Franconia would like to meet with a large group from our congregation.
- At our next meeting we will consider the idea of exploring other conference affiliations.
- Council agreed to meet in two months instead of three to discuss 5. and 6. Further.

The next church council meeting will be March 14 at 7pm.

Meeting concluded at 9:10 a.m.

Addendum:

