

West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship
Church Council Meeting
March 14, 2018

Attendance: Tim Martin Johnson (Council Chair, HRC), Amanda Esh Bouwman (Elder), Rebecca Weber (Deacon), Bryan Geib (Deacon), Laurie Callan (Elder), Nick Lordi (Elder), Dorianna Lordi (Administrative Assistant)

Tim began meeting with scripture and reflection at 7:10 p.m.

HRC

- Briefly discussed annual volunteer check-ins
- Nick's term as Elder is complete in May and he will not be continuing for a second term

Deacons

- Finances are typical for this time of year
- Met with a small group to discuss building options
- They have a list of about 70 places/buildings to contact
- Additional support is needed for reaching out and touring different options
- Rebecca will email out the list of building options to council

Elders

- Would like to use the remaining redemption housing grant for a healing communities training and church retreat speaker
- Recently had a parenting workshop that went well
- Anti-racism (AR) group is starting a book series that is open to the congregation
- AR group is also considering different options for Sunday School
- Would like to have an anti-racism training, currently brainstorming how to fund this
- Amanda explained New Sanctuary Movement's (NSM) purpose and Elders proposed that WPMF join NSM
- At least two people will be needed to be a contact person for NSM, Amanda is willing to be one of them
- Council discussed the idea of WPMF having an outreach committee that connects and ties relevant initiatives and committees together, such as redemption housing and POWER teams
- Council discussed different options to approach the congregation with the proposal to join NSM
- NSM is something that aligns with our values
- There was some concern that we may be overreaching and will not be able to find volunteers
- Another concern was that this may interfere or take away from current ministries
- Council agreed to have an informational meeting, sermon, then congregational meeting regarding joining NSM

Conference

- Tim briefly summarized the recent communication with Franconia Conference regarding our congregation's decision to affirm our Pastor officiating a same-sex marriage
- Council discussed this matter further, including how to sensitively address this
- Tim handed out proposal to contact other congregations within the next three months to create a plan of action at the next council meeting
- Tim will make a spreadsheet of other welcoming congregations and send out to council

Facilities

- Lorie and Rebecca met with some board members of Calvary Center for Culture and Community (CCCC) yesterday to discuss their building
- We have been meeting for worship at Wharton-Wesley United Methodist Church since January on a week to week basis
- CCCC is having a particularly difficult time financially
- The CCCC board would like more support from us and others
- Council discussed if we should and when we should return to CCCC for worship
- It was communicated to Calvary that we are looking at our building options
- Council agreed to return to CCCC on Easter, April 1st, 2018 and communicate this to the congregation this coming Sunday
- Bryan will discuss this with Wharton-Wesley UMC and Rebecca will discuss details with Calvary CCC
- Council agreed that returning to CCCC is temporary as we actively look for prospective building options over the next few months

Next church council meeting will be Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Tim adjourned meeting at 9:24 p.m.