

West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship
Congregational Meeting
June 17, 2018

Attendance: Mark Michalovic (Elder), Jeff Knightly (Deacon), Cindy Cassel, Joe Syzdek, JoAnn Witherow, Nick Lordi, Elizabeth Hamilton (Facilitator), Sherri Michalovic, Tim Martin Johnson (HRC), Carol Buhrman, Carey Davis, Brenda Rich, Katie Tan, Ethan Tan, Rebecca Weber (Deacon), Nancy Geryk, Linford Martin, Sheldon Rich, Sylvia Horst, Peter Horst, Bryan Geib

Elizabeth began meeting at 10:45 a.m.

- Elizabeth explained that the purpose of this meeting is to affirm Sheldon Rich and Ethan Tan as Elders and Carol Buhrman as Deacon followed by an update of the building search

1. Affirmation Meeting

Affirmation process of Carol Buhrman as Deacon

- Tim Martin Johnson presented Carol Buhrman as deacon
- Carol shared a few words
- There was an opportunity for questions from congregation
- Carol Buhrman left the room
- Congregation formed CDM's of 3-4 members
- Congregation reached consensus
- Carol Buhrman was affirmed as deacon for a 3-year term
- It was noted that Jeff Knightly has 1-year remaining from Lenny's term and Rebecca has 2-years remaining
- Bryan Geib completed his term in May 2018

Affirmation process of Sheldon Rich and Ethan Tan as Elders

- Tim explained Elder nomination and affirmation process
- Tim also noted that the Pastoral team requested 2 new elders instead of 1 to create a 5-person elder team instead of 4
- Nick Lordi completed his term in May 2018
- Tim presented Sheldon Rich as Elder
- Sheldon shared a few words
- There was an opportunity for questions from congregation
- Sheldon left the room
- Congregation formed CDM's of 3-4 members
- Congregation reached consensus
- Sheldon Rich was affirmed as deacon
- Tim presented Ethan Tan as Elder

- Ethan shared a few words
- There was an opportunity for questions from congregation
- Ethan left the room
- Congregation formed CDM's of 3-4 members
- Congregation reached consensus
- Ethan Tan was affirmed as elder

2. Update on Building search

- Rebecca shared status of building search
- After looking into about 70 options and touring a half dozen, the search team has currently identified two potential options
- Team will continue to look for more building options
- The first option is The Common Place, which is located at 58th and Chester Avenue
- Rebecca explained some aspects of The Common Place, including community involvement, affiliated with POWER, they are a non-profit, partnered with Wayne Presbyterian and other congregations to make renovations to the building, first floor is fully accessible, cost would likely be similar, the building appears to be in good condition, 9:00 a.m. service time is available, small parking lot, available office space, and is out of our current neighborhood
- Congregants discussed and asked questions about The Common Place and Calvary Center for Culture and Community
- Rebecca and Tim gave a brief status of improvement initiatives at Calvary, noting that most of the concerns are still present
- Some congregants were interested in touring The Common Place
- The second option that the team is exploring is a smaller church at 46th and Spruce named Good Shepherd Community Church
- This church has been in the neighborhood since 1978 and has recently been considering sharing their space
- Some of the aspects of this space include a fellowship area, possibility of seating over 160, stair chair to upstairs, basement and other areas appear to need some work, appears to have enough space for our activities, willing to negotiate times for Sunday activities, and is close to Calvary Center for Culture and Community
- Building search team will explore this church more to see if it is a feasible option for us
- Congregants asked questions regarding both spaces
- Wharton-Wesley U.M.C. was discussed as a good space over the winter but had some significant space challenges for us long term
- Next steps will be for small groups to visit spaces, better understand needed repairs, and find out more details about both spaces
- There will be an update on this process at the financial mid-year check in at the end of July

Elizabeth concluded meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Administrative Assistant, Dorianna Lordi