

West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship
Congregational Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2019

The meeting was opened at 11:20AM with 24 people in attendance. Carol Martin Johnson opened the meeting with a centering exercise.

The meeting was then turned over to Elaine Shenk from HRC. Elaine reported that the original desire was for HRC to present at this meeting someone for the open elder position. Lynn Wetherbee had initially agreed to serve in this role but after further reflection has decided that this is not the right time for her to take on this responsibility. So HRC will meet in future months to decide on the appropriate next steps.

The meeting was then turned over to the Deacons for presentation of the financial mid-year check-in. This check-in was instituted some years ago, in an effort to keep the congregation better informed about the state of the church's finances, at times other than the annual budget meeting. Copies of the Financial Update were distributed and time was given for people to look over the report. Carol gave a verbal summary, saying that through June we have a \$7000 deficit, indicating that, although a deficit is not desirable, it is not uncommon for us to be running a deficit around this amount part-way through the summer, with people being away and the usual slowing of giving through the summer months. The balance of the Building Fund was noted on the back side of the report, as this was a question at a previous congregational meeting.

The floor was then opened for questions. Someone questioned whether all income and expenses were in the report through the end of June (affirmative). Also a question was asked if our giving this year has been more than at this time last year (the deacons present did not have that info but indicated that they thought that giving was much the same or slightly higher than the previous year. Questions were also asked about whether expenses were higher than expected or giving was lower than needed (this was discussed). There was also a question about the Mennonite College Fund and how much we give to each student (after some conferring it was indicated that we believed it was \$500 per student per semester). It was also indicated that 2 checks for \$500 each were recently cut for our current college students. Someone also followed up on the comment about the Building Fund with a request that we should actively explore ways to use this money, rather than just letting it lie there.

Carol MJ then closed with meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Knightly