

Church Council Minutes  
Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Present: Brian Bither, Bob Love, Cheryl Martin, James Martin, Jeanne Smucker, Jim Martin, Jim Showalter, Joann Buerge, Kristen Metzler-Wilson, Phil Shenk, Rod Maust

Rod opened with a reading of the lyrics of "Come and be light for our eyes".

Ministry Reports

Pastor Elder Team—Cheryl Martin

A retirement celebration has been planned for Dagne on January 10. Brian and Frank have been affirmed by the congregation for ordination and the IN-MI conference is proceeding with the process. Preliminary work is being done on small groups.

Adult Education—Jeanne Smucker

Will have SS options looking at creation care and immigration.

Buildings and Grounds—Jim Showalter

Working at maintenance issues. Gathering information about new sign options. Will be installing a new video projector in the sanctuary.

Child and Youth—Joann Buerge

Anne Lehman is taking four girls to snow camp this weekend. Emily Fox will be taking four high school students to snow camp at the end of January.

Fellowship—Jim Martin

The year has been planned.

Outreach/Welcoming—Phil Shenk

Slow Church book was studied in SS. Working with Gifts Discernment on ways to utilize gifts. Volunteers were invited to help with IHN at First Mennonite. Plan on talking with congregation about IndyCan connections for this year.

Worship—Kristen Metzler-Wilson

Brian is now participating in the group. The ministry will be coordinating preaching schedule until the transitional pastor arrives. Working on Lenten services.

Treasurer—Bob Love

Reviewed the Account Balances Report as of 1/1/16. Passed around the graph of last year's weekly offerings.

Creation Care—Marilynn Teel, Mike Wigginton, Ruth Penner

Mike reviewed the Campus Plan report from January 13, 2014. Ruth reviewed the value of healthy ecosystems. Marilynn reviewed the recent Creation Care meeting and spoke of their coordination with Buildings and Grounds. An aerial view of the church property with possible modifications was shown. It was suggested that Creation Care develop a mission statement that guides their decisions. It was also suggested that the aerial map be sent to congregational members as well as being displayed at church, requesting comments and suggestions about the possible plans. Marilynn reminded everyone of the upcoming informational meeting on solar panels on January 14.

#### Emmanuel Living Christian Church—Brian Bither

A new Chin congregation on the south side has reached out to the Mennonite Church and this was passed on to Brian, who's had some initial contact with their leadership group. Brian shared some ways individuals, and our congregation might be involved. Suggestions were offered on ways to proceed. More personal connections and more information would be helpful. Outreach/Welcoming might also work with Brian on next steps.

#### Gifts Discernment Ministry

Rachel Maust has resigned as she and Rolando are spending more time at Iglesia de Fe. She was appointed by the council and would have about 1 1/2 years remaining. Names were suggested for her replacement and Rod will f/u.

#### Transitional Pastor Update—Rod Maust

The Exit Agreement with Dagne was reviewed. The informal agreement with Carol was also reviewed noting her non-participation in business meetings and transition meetings during the transition period and for one year after the new pastor/s has started. Jim Showalter will keep recordings of business/transition meetings in a separate dropbox for those who was to hear them.

A tentative Memo of Understanding with Gary Martin was reviewed, outlining his proposed salary and benefits. Mennonite Church USA recommends providing health insurance and the options were reviewed. We will follow our current practice. The Transitional Search Committee will be meeting with Gary later this month to work out a mutual agreement.

It was noted that the Guidelines for Pastor's Salaries recommends a slightly difference method of calculating the retirement benefit than we have been using. It was agreed that Brian will be given \$250 this year to correct the discrepancy. Dagne will be given \$5000 to approximate the discrepancy over his years of service at Shalom.

Next Meeting—Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> if necessary, otherwise Wednesday, March 2, 7pm