

COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

Congregational Meeting Minutes

Sunday, August 29, 2010, 6 p.m.

Sanctuary

*A community of Jesus Christ, empowered by the Spirit,
Experiencing and extending God's love and grace.*

Moderator: Larry Miller

1. Larry Miller opened with prayer.
2. David Birky described his experience in accepting the call to serve CMC.
3. The minutes for January 24, 2010, were reviewed and accepted.
4. PASTORAL SEARCH: Lisa Caskey reviewed the process, thus far, of the pastoral search during the past 1.5 years and encouraged the congregation to pray for all involved.

Rose Widmer clarified the intended nature of the “team leader” ministry role (vs. “lead pastor”), as well as the Vision Leadership Team. The pastoral team presently consists of about ten people. The team leader equips and empowers other members of the team.

John Hershberger gave an update on the work of the pastoral search committee, and reviewed the procedures involved in contacting candidates. 94 names have been suggested. Of the 5 nominees thus far pursued, 2 did not move into the next phase of the process and 3 withdrew from consideration. CMC is regarded as a “heartland” church, with an attractive location on a college campus and an unusual ministry leadership model. Currently, 3 persons are scheduled to meet with the committee. John requested more suggestions and prayers.

5. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONS: Highlights. “Section” refers to the “Goals for College Mennonite Church, 2012” document distributed at the meeting (also available on the web and in literature racks).

Discipling (Rosemary Widmer, Gay Lehman, Talashia Keim Yoder): Rosemary commented on Section A.1. Gay Lehman on Section B.3: There will be a Seder service during the S.S. hour on Sunday, Oct. 3 for the entire congregation. Talashia on C.4: emphasizing the building of relationships with college students, including Wednesday night activities, S.S. class and weekly fellowship meals.

Community Life (Liz Gunden): Review of all existing ministries within the congregation is almost complete. 40 people participated in short-term groups. About 18 long-term groups exist at CMC. More small groups will be formed this fall.

Worship (Rebecca Slough): Despite changing membership, have formulated a statement on the nature of worship at CMC and sought the insights of focus groups (as summarized in CMC newsletter). Goals: increase participation in planning worship, have preachers consult with attendees on chosen texts, form common language about and understandings of worship, consider frequency of communion services, improve welcome extended to all worshippers.

Outreach (Nancy Miller., Rosemary Widmer): Nancy on C.1: Members are encouraged to be involved in ministries supported through the grant program. New initiative for CMC to relate to Goshen College faculty, administration, staff. The initiative is modeled after the Goshen church that provided significant support and services to Chandler School. Rosemary on C.2 and C.3: continued work on learning how to articulate faith to others.

Spiritual Gifts Discernment (Rebecca Horst): A computer program is being created to inventory all tasks at CMC and all individual members' passions and skills.

Administration (Del Good, Daniel Yoder): Have chosen the best software for CMC business affairs. Ethel Hoffman's resignation prompted the hiring of Heidi King to review functions and procedures in the CMC office and make recommendations for improvements and efficiencies. More people are being trained to operate the sound system and as weekend custodians. The website will be re-structured.

Sandra Shenk Lapp called attention to posters in the hallways listing specific goals of CMC and encouraged individuals to sign their names for having worked at them or intending to do so.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT (Dave Birky): We are 44.9% toward meeting the 2010 goal for the general fund. \$526,265 has been given thus far (toward \$1,170,786). Although we should be at 58%, we are more or less on track, based on past years' giving patterns.

7. OPEN DISCUSSION:

- A statement was read objecting to the removal of trees from the south parking lot. (Ned and Ann Kauffman)
- Tree removal should have been preceded by congregational discussion. (Leonard Gross)
- **MOVED: That we affirm with deep thanks the board and commission reports as presented and encourage the board and commissions to continue within the guidelines as set here tonight.** (Leonard Gross/Harold Bauman) Passed by unanimous voice vote.
- Was the report referred to in C.3 actually given to the congregation? (Evelyn Kreider) Not yet. Will be presented this fall. (Rosemary Widmer)
- Instead of looking for "generalist" pastors, the pastoral search committee should look for specific gifts in preaching and teaching. (Don Blosser)
- Preaching! (J. B. Shenk)
- The pastoral search committee has paid special attention to preaching ability. (John Hershberger)
- Regret expressed for removal of trees. (Arlin Hunsberger)

Sue Neeb offered a sending prayer.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:45.