

Congregational meeting minutes – September 16, 2005

Present: Bob and Jen (hosts), Thom and Eileen, Mark and Kathy, Aaron and Rachel, Nancy, Chrissie, Victor, Kathy K., Walt, Sonya, Chris

Devotional: selected verses from Ephesians 4, Hymn 309, and other worship throughout.

1. Leadership team report (Sonya)

- Looking toward future, as well as routine jobs.
- Had a one day retreat together the end of August at Beaver Camp. We shared together what we each bring to the team, and what goals we have for the year together. Also met with Milton and Dorothy to get their input. Following our retreat we attended the Ministers and Leaders 1½ day retreat there as well.
- Reviewed upcoming adult hours that will help us look at our life together as a community.
- Reservations have been made for 6 persons from RAMF to attend the Music and Worship leaders retreat in January at Laurelville. Any persons who lead worship and are interested in attending January 6-8 should **submit their name to Kathy Shelly by October 24.**
- A survey will be coming out regarding potlucks – feedback needed as we are getting mixed messages about if/how they should continue.

2. NYMC delegate report (Sonya)

- Delegates discussed the money that will be coming to NYMC from the medical sharing plan/ only decision made so far was to give 10% First fruits ...more discussion at next delegate meeting in April 2006.
- Affirmed new leadership of NYMC (various commissions, etc)
- Passed proposed budget.

3. Rethinking RAMF structure: (Bob presented and led this discussion)

A conversation among those who attended the Leadership weekend at Delta Lake 1 ½ years ago, began at that time regarding possible structure changes RAMF might consider as we grow, and have a permanent location. We briefly reviewed what LT does, what other significant committees we have, and how the congregation makes decisions. Reflected about what gets brought to a congregational meeting and/ or what we would like to see less of/more of at these meetings. Reviewed what types of decisions “should” get brought to a congregational meeting, and what currently gets decided on by various committees. Brainstormed on how to define this more clearly, possibly being willing to allow more decisions by committee. One idea was to look at past decisions made in order to have a framework to begin to define what level of decision should come at the congregational level. Expanded on Leadership team’s “job description” – how we see emerging more interest in /need for more long-term/long-range items, spiritual issues, having a more “pastoral” role, and not only being administrative. One suggestion was to form a separate “education committee” to be responsible not only for children’s ed coordination, but also adult education (adult hour), to free up the LT from this responsibility. The group agreed the selection process for Leadership team and worship committee needs revision. Considered the idea about whether we have concerns that things have been falling between the cracks and how to prevent that. This part of the agenda concluded with several people

sharing what they didn't want to change/ or lose.... This being somewhat harder to define also – that we would recognize it better when there is a threat to it being lost. Agreed together that much more discussion will be needed along these ideas.

4. Building committee report: (Bob)

One more approval left, might take about 2 weeks. Hope to have a building permit by the end of September. Committee has been working on the contract with Sean Sullivan, working with our lawyer regarding our loan contract and the issue of insurance. Another grant opportunity was applied to through Aaron's parents' church in Ohio. A schedule is beginning to be developed for volunteers. A ground-breaking service will be scheduled as soon as we have the building permit. The "finishing" committee (Thom, Jen, Chrissie, Holly and Kristen) has started meeting.

5. Worship committee report: (Jen)

Only item they reported at this time is that the "hymn of the month" will be re-instated as an option by worship leaders to help learn new hymns.

6. Treasurer report (Kathy S.)

Regular fund (includes cushion in savings) \$10,500 (non-building fund money)

Inflow from offerings (not including special offerings) since Feb 1 is \$ 24,000

Outflow is \$ 28,000 (I dipped temporarily into savings to pay some budgeted mission line items). In next 4 months (rest of the fiscal year) I anticipate \$8,500 in expenses. Pledged giving is on track – if anyone ever wants to know how their current giving compares to what they've pledged, please ask. Seminars category has gone over budget already, as we expected because of paying 3 families registration fees for Charlotte. (Have already received some extra \$ designated to balance that). Expect to have \$900 more expenses for those going to the Laurelville Music and Worship leaders weekend in January.

Building fund savings is \$65,000. (\$27,750 has been received since Feb 1 - \$15,500 from RAMF members, \$12, 250 outside RAMF). Anticipate approximately \$5,000 more by January 31 if all pledges are met.

7. Proposal from Quakers to join them in response to Hurricane Katrina

Proposed idea as to organize and participate in a 2-3 mile walk in Genesee Valley Park, get sponsors, etc. in order to raise money together. This idea did not appeal to many/any?, so was dropped. Nancy will follow-up with Michael, or may be receiving a call from the Quakers as to what we decided.

Other ideas: MCC school kits as per an email from NYMC Sherry Mast who is our area's MCC rep. Another idea was to liaison/support the local church that took in families, who may have specific needs for these families (clothing, school items, household items, etc) Kathy Kern will make contact for more information and present it to the leadership team. She also noted that MMA would match \$ up to \$500 from a sharing fund grant.

8. The Leadership team recommends that we authorized Mark S. to move the RAMF website to Mennonite.net under the name RAMF.org. The cost will be \$ 140/year. Passed.