

Rochester Area Mennonite Fellowship Congregational Meeting

31-October-2010

Present: Hannah, Mark, Anthony, Bob, Anne, Ron, Walt, Betsi, Bryan, Kathy S., Amy, Jason, Victor, Judy, Thom, Eileen, Kathy K., Laurel, Andrew, Karissa, Ben, Chrissie, Sonya, Roger, Sue, Gail.

Congregational/Minister Relations Committee (CMRC)

Sue and Mark led the discussion of the draft covenant between the congregation and Sonya.

Strengths:

- “Cultivating a life of prayer”
- specificity of the first half (Sonya’s part)
- valuable to put on paper what we’re thinking as it helps clarify
- two sided covenant
- “To continue to exercise our own gifts and ministries with zeal”.

Concerns:

- Cultivating should be in both
- (nearly) all of the items on Sonya’s side are things that we all do as members of RAMF.
- The language “As a licensed minister” preceding things that many of us do.
- To discern actively - isn’t happening, and hasn’t been happening adequately.

Thom and Eileen raised concerns about the process - not the covenant itself, but the licensing process, and changes in the congregation. They’ve felt left out of the process. Sonya responded that the lack of apparent communication was at least partly a result of a perceived desire for a cooling off period. And it was unclear what the mandate of the CMRC was. This is expanding from being more of a Sonya Support Group to being more two-way.

We continue to struggle with issues of leadership and hierarchy (not just Thom and Eileen).

At least five people raised questions of process: a feeling that we needed more time and broader discussion, as not everyone has felt heard.

Sue called for a question of if the wording were “As a member of the congregation and licensed minister...” would people have specific concerns/affirmations. As this went around the room there were numerous calls for further discussion, and a sense that reaching consensus was not about to happen. There was significant support for the document, but also substantial calls for further discussion about leadership issues.

Leadership team and CMRC will continue to process this. We agreed to have another congregational meeting (probably in November).

Fifth Sunday

We accepted the proposal that every month with five Sundays, the fifth Sunday of the month would not have Education Hour.

Treasurer’s report

attached (not discussed).

NYMC delegate assembly report

attached (not discussed).

Worship discussion

tabled.

RAMF Treasurer report – October 31, 2010

Education Fund balance is \$131.

Sharing Fund balance is \$429 (as of Oct. 30, 2010)

Sharing Fund is now administered completely by the Pastoral team. If you would like to contribute to the RAMF sharing fund anytime during the year, please give your contribution to Kathy Shelly. There will also be periodic special offerings to keep it funded. If you know of needs that would be helped by our sharing fund, see any member of the Pastoral ministry team. Currently the pastoral ministry includes: Thom and Eileen Metzger, James Walls, Teresa Nickeson and Kathy Shelly.

Support funds for our Rochester MVS unit are kept in a separate account from our general checking account. If you have a gift or expense related to MVS, please give it to Kathy Shelly. If you are interested in supporting the wider Mennonite Church Mennonite Voluntary Service program as an individual or a family, write your check to Mennonite Mission Network, and specifically indicate support for Mennonite Voluntary Service. You could even more specifically indicate Rochester MVS. The MVS Office has medical insurance for our VSers and many other expenses (program, administrative and staff) and can always use extra financial support.

Budget committee will be forming soon, and new members are needed! Please see Jen or Kathy if you are interested in being part of budget committee.

In addition, budget committee is looking for all input for planning our 2011 budget by December 15. This includes any individuals who want to give input, but also each ministry-Steward, Education, Worship, Pastoral and Outreach. Even if you don't anticipate your budget figures changing, please look over your budget and notify Jen Carter of your plan for 2011.

Special offerings for 2010 – We have not had a special offering every month. Cash collected on a given month where there was no designated recipient gets added to the following month. If you have a suggestion for a special offering, please see Jen or Kathy, who oversee the Special offering.

2010 Special Offerings

February – Foodlink	\$314
March – MCUSA Campaign, Joining Together, Investing in Hope	\$254
April/ May	none
June – Student Aid for Non-registrants	\$421
July – none	
August – Rochester MVS	\$300
September – MCC: Flooding in Pakistan	\$362
October – RAMF Sharing Fund	\$211 to date
November – RAMF Sharing Fund	
December – Migrant Christmas	

Submitted by Jen Carter and Kathy Shelly

Delegate Assembly Report

New York Mennonite Conference Delegate Assembly was held at Penn York Camp on Sept 18, 2010. This congregation was represented by Eileen Metzger, delegate, Kathy Shelly, resource advocate and Sonya Stauffer Kurtz, moderator. Both Kathy and Sonya are non-voting members of Coordinating Council, Eileen is a voting delegate. Our congregation could have had two more delegates.

Delegates heard about:

- _ Stability in conference leadership – everyone on coordinating council will continue for the coming year.
- _ Church planting efforts going on in the Buffalo area and in Atlantic Northeast Conferences of MCUSA, of which NYMC is a part.
- _ NYMC scholarship money which is available to support leadership education (submit requests for scholarship aid to members of the Leadership Commission, either Gene Miller, gene@yorkscorners.org or Terry Zehr, tzehr1@twcny.rr.com). Tim Wright and Sandra Craft are the other two members of Leadership commission.
- _ Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary scholarship monies designated for people from NY State. Apply through AMBS.
- _ NY Mennonite women – Kathy Shelly and Jeanette Lyndaker are looking for women to help plan a women’s retreat for Spring 2011.
- _ Newsletter editor – Duane Davis will take over this job – thanks to Sue Klassen for a job well done
- _ Leadership Seminar, Feb 4-6, 2011, Jeff Wright, from California, speaker.
- _ Mennonite Publishing Network, Mennonite Central Committee, Anabaptist Disabilities Network, Mennonite Education Agency, AMBS, EMS, Mennonite Mission Network.
- _ Sharing from each congregation represented

Delegates passed:

- _ Dreams and Visions document - three primary foci – renewing churches and new churches, training for missional leaders. You should be able to read the document soon on the conference website. This is an updated version of the document discussed after church on August 8.
- _ 2010-2011 Budget. Fiscal year ended with total church giving slightly above this same time last year.
- _ \$10,000 from MMA reserve funds to help start one or more new churches in Buffalo area. Expenditures to be approved by Coordinating Council.

Minutes taken by Victor.