

Rochester Mennonite Fellowship  
Congregational Meeting  
25 January 2015

MINUTES

Present: Anthony Ricciuti, Julie Armstrong, Bob Carter, Stephanie Giles, Aaron Stuckey, Jen Carter, Kathy Shelly, Mark Shelly, Gail Ricciuti, Tim Armstrong, Ron Lugbill, Amy Durkee, Nancy Price, Jason Poole, Rob Shelly, Wendy Shelly, Dan Giles (facilitator), Walt Nickeson, Nathan Geiser, Melissa Carlson, Roger Kurtz (recorder).

1. Budget.

a) Fiscal Year 2014:

The treasurer (Jen) reported that an ambitious budget for 2014 came together nicely. We are ending the year a little over \$109 in the red, which includes spending an unbudgeted amount of almost \$1000 on chairs for the conference room. There is \$249 left in the MVS start-up fund.

Other balances:

- Sharing fund = \$1500 after \$1000 was disbursed
- Education fund = \$8000 after \$ 1000 was disbursed
- Immigrant education fund = \$2376 after \$ 1702 disbursed
- Savings account = \$9000
- CD (capital improvement fund) = \$5300

In addition to the budget, we collected for several special offerings during the year:

\$ 1869 for RMF Sharing Fund

\$ 2376 for RMF Immigrant Scholarship Fund

\$ 7426 for other Projects, including:

\$ 1419 for Mennonite World Conference Global Youth

\$ 734 for Rochester City School District Book Drive

\$ 1706 for Ms Maria (pregnant woman whose husband was deported)

\$ 3568 for NYMC-affiliated project: transportation for Chin congregation

b) Fiscal Year 2015:

Jen noted that the proposed budget appears in a new format, due to a new software program. The finance committee put together a “fairly conservative” budget, based on anticipated income of \$69,900 (which is a little lower than last year).

The report for FY 2014 and the budget for FY 2015 were approved by consensus.

2. Review of a Proposal to Change the Bylaws. A proposal to amend the bylaws did not receive consensus approval at the September congregational meeting, but the congregation did vote to continue working on it. The original proposal was:

The Leadership Team proposes amending the Bylaws by adding one item to Article VIII (“Congregational or Business Meetings”). The article currently contains 8 items; the proposed addition would become the 4<sup>th</sup> out of a total of 9. The proposed addition is: “4

*congregational meeting may also be called by petition of at least six members. Such a meeting shall be considered a duly called congregational meeting and shall be conducted as prescribed in this article, except that its agenda shall be developed and distributed by the petitioners.”*

At this meeting, we reviewed our decision-making process, and then all were given a chance to air their perspectives on the proposal. A range of opinions were presented, with some people feeling that it would be a useful addition and others expressing discomfort with it. We followed our decision-making process through the following steps:

- In testing for consensus (step 7), there were multiple “ones” (opposed) and a number of “twos” (opposed but willing to let it pass). It was clear that we did not have consensus.
- A vote was taken on whether to continue seeking consensus (step 9): only 1 person was in favor, the rest opposed.
- Because we decided not to continue seeking consensus, a vote was then taken on whether to decide the matter by voting (step 11): 16 were in favor, constituting a majority.
- Finally, we voted on whether or not to approval the proposal (step 12). There were 5 yes votes, and as this did not constitute a 2/3 majority, the amendment was dropped.

This whole process took about an hour. Following the decision, there was some discussion around the fact that this decision-making process did not seem to work very well. In particular, some were unhappy with the fact that there is no mechanism to reach a compromise or to offer friendly amendments to the original proposal.

3. Leadership team reported the following items:

- We want to encourage promptness in beginning worship on time. We are asking song leaders to begin gathering songs at 9:55 a.m.
- The library committee has clarified a new set of library procedures.
- Chrissie has been selected as our delegate to the MCUSA national convention at Kansas City. We also want to encourage attendance by others.
- Mennonite World Conference is July 21-26, 2015, in Harrisburg PA. We want to encourage attendance at this event. Rob Shelly reported on attending MWC in Paraguay, and he noted that it is a worthwhile experience.
- We need volunteers to serve on the Retreat Planning Committee

4. Changes to Church Structure. The Leadership Team noted that it perceives a number of gaps and needs in the way we are currently structured, and is sensing that the ways that we currently meet these needs are not viable or sustainable in the long term. Specifically, the jobs of Administrator, Treasurer, and Coordinator of Children/Youth Programs are roles seem unsustainable as presently configured. The Leadership Team wanted to know if the congregation agrees with this assessment and what alternatives we might have, including the possibility of identifying these as paid positions.

Attendees divided into 4 groups to discuss these issues. Each group’s ideas were collected on newssheet for later review by the Leadership Team.

5. Ministry team reports:

The EDUCATION MINISTRY is looking ahead for future adult hour topics. They would welcome additional participants in planning. Anthony offered the suggestion that worship leaders provide a printed copy of their input materials for Chris each Sunday, as a way of enabling him to participate more fully in worship. After worship, they might ask him what he thinks of their ideas.

The WORSHIP MINISTRY reports that it is having difficulty securing worship leaders lately. They ask members of the congregation to consider signing up soon. Those who sign up for a Sunday through February 12 can use lectionary texts as a basis for the service or can choose to do something different. It's a great time to lead if you like to "do your own thing." Materials are provided for Lent through Easter, making it a great time to sign up if you prefer to have more support with planning.

Those new to leading worship should feel free to ask for support from a member of Worship Ministry: Sonya, Anne, Nancy and Amy.

There will be an Ash Wednesday service. Materials are available for a Maundy Thursday service. If someone would like to lead that service, please contact a member of worship committee.

STEWARDS reported that new chairs in the conference room have been purchased. If you see any problems around the building (leaking sinks, etc.), please inform the stewards. In answer to a question, it was noted that we have a contract for now removal on the driveway and parking lot, but not for the sidewalk. Gail noted that some time before Christmas, she arrived at the church late in the evening and the door was unlocked. If anyone has this experience, they should let the stewards know.

Rochester Mennonite Fellowship Approved FY 2015 Budget FY 2014 Budget/Actual

	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2015 Approved Budget
4000 Offerings	\$70,300.00	\$70,756.00	\$66,900.00
4002 Interest	\$0.00	\$10.00	
4005 Rental Income	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$73,300.00</b>	<b>\$73,766.00</b>	<b>\$69,900.00</b>
5000 Facilities: Mortgage	\$20,460.00	\$21,460.00	\$20,460.00
5001 Corinthian Plan	\$830.00	\$825.96	\$830.00
5002 Mennonite Church USA	\$550.00	\$550.00	\$500.00
5003 Mennonite Disaster Service	\$550.00	\$550.00	\$500.00
5004 Mennonite Central Committee	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00	\$1,500.00
5005 Mennonite Men Join Hands	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$700.00
5006 Mennonite Women USA	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$700.00
5007 Mennonite Voluntary Service	\$875.00	\$875.00	\$850.00
5008 Mennonite World Conference	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
5009 Mennonite Mission Network	\$775.00	\$775.00	\$750.00
5015 Mennonite Education:Colleges	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,000.00
5016 Mennonite Education: Seminaries	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$500.00
5017 Mennonite Education Agency	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,000.00
5018 Mennonite Education RELE	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,000.00
5020 Home Missions: Beaver Camp	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00	\$1,600.00
5021 Home Missions: Christian Peacemaker Teams	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,250.00
5022 Home Missions: MVS	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$600.00
5023 Home Missions: NY Mennonite Conference	\$7,150.00	\$7,150.00	\$7,000.00
5024 Home Missions: PiRI	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,250.00
5050 Admin: Office & Postage	\$1,000.00	\$621.55	\$750.00
5051 Admin: Telecommunications	\$700.00	\$784.30	\$700.00
5055 Subscriptions	\$1,000.00	\$1,103.97	\$1,100.00
5056 Hospitality & Gifts	\$800.00	\$650.93	\$800.00
5057 Misc. Local	\$735.00	\$982.49	\$260.00
5060 Leadership Team	\$100.00	\$58.28	\$100.00
5061 Facilities: City & County Fees	\$1,100.00	\$1,157.11	\$1,100.00
5062 Facilities: Cleaning	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
5063 Facilities: Custodial Supplies	\$300.00	\$109.52	\$250.00
5064 Facilities: Insurance	\$3,400.00	\$3,332.80	\$2,400.00
5065 Facilities: Building Maintenance	\$1,000.00	\$797.81	\$1,000.00
5066 Facilities: Grounds Maintenance	\$2,400.00	\$3,113.01	\$1,200.00
5067 Facilities: Utilities & Refuse	\$3,200.00	\$3,227.11	\$3,200.00
5070 Decor	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
5071 Furnishings	\$100.00	\$750.00	\$100.00
5075 Education: Adult Hour	\$225.00	\$178.62	\$200.00
5076 Education: Sunday School	\$800.00	\$412.39	\$600.00
5077 Education: Safe Ministries	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
5080 Outreach Ministry	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
5085 Pastoral Care Ministry	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
5090 Worship Ministry	\$400.00	\$160.22	\$300.00
5095 Youth Ministry	\$300.00	\$73.66	\$200.00
5099 Delegate, Biennial MCUSA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
5100 Library	\$150.00	\$118.25	\$150.00
5101 Sponsorships	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$250.00
5102 Speakers	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
5103 Seminars	\$500.00	\$275.00	\$1,000.00
5104 Retreat	\$6,250.00	\$6,689.99	\$6,500.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$73,300.00</b>	<b>\$73,882.97</b>	<b>\$69,900.00</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>-\$116.97</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>