

RAMF Congregational meeting minutes – April 22, 2012

Bob Carter (facilitator), Jason Poole (worship leader), Kathy Shelly (note taker), Drew Langdon, Rachel & Aaron Stuckey, Mark Shelly, Roger & Sonya Kurtz, Judy Bernhart, Kathleen Kern, Ron Luginbill, Jen Carter, Wendy & Rob Shelly, Amy Durkee, Chrissie Walls, Brian Babcock, Samantha Everest, Melissa Carlson, Walt & Teresa Nickeson, Nancy Price, Ben Price, Gail & Anthony Ricciuti

The only agenda item was to share feedback on the most recent articulation of our core values.

We are a community that holds the values of **R**econciling, **A**ffirming, **M**utual Participation, and **F**ollowing Christ:

Reconciling

- We restore right relationships: Between each other, between us and God, and between us and the rest of creation.
- We work with and support those who work with the marginalized and oppressed for peace and reconciliation locally and globally.

Affirming

- We are a community of safety and welcome.
- We recognize, cultivate, and utilize the gifts of each person in our midst.

Mutual Participation

- We all share responsibility for and actively participate in the life of our church community.
- We build and sustain relationships, which involves caring for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of one another.

Following Christ

- We are disciples of Jesus Christ and model our own lives (and faith) after His example and teachings.

In all these things we are connected with the Mennonite denomination and identify with its values and traditions.

Comments were overall very positive regarding this expression of our core values. We met in small groups for specific affirmations and to give suggestions for final wordsmith. Walt Nickeson and Mark Shelly will work on a final draft. This will be distributed along with other agenda items for the June 3 congregational meeting, where we will seek formal approval for this document. (For more detailed notes of each group's comments, contact Kathy Shelly).

Leadership Team report includes some dates to mark on your calendars:

Next potluck will be May 27 - we will be having a guest speaker that Sunday.

Our May congregational meeting will actually be Sunday, June 3, with a simple potluck prior. Agendas will be out by May 20. (There will be no Sunday School or Education Hour that day).

Our last week for children's Sunday School and Adult Education hour will be Sunday, June 17. We will resume in September. Potluck that day will include a farewell to Brian & Betsi Roggie.

Our annual Recovenanting Service will be on June 24. In May we will be posting our gift pledges similar to last year for signing up.

Minister Congregation Relations Committee (MCRC) Report:

We have worked with Sonya to create the following draft of the covenant of understanding for Sonya in her role as Ordained Minister in RAMF. This will be presented to the congregation at the June 3rd congregational meeting for discussion and approval. Please read through it, and if you have any questions or concerns, then we urge you to bring these to the attention of one of the members of MCRC prior to the meeting in June.

Respectfully, Bob Carter, Chrissie Walls, Gail Ricciuti, Jason Poole, and Mark Shelly

Draft Covenant of Understanding

between Sonya Stauffer Kurtz and Rochester Area Mennonite Fellowship, Rochester, NY

As an ordained minister, Sonya pledges

- to cultivate a life of prayer and Bible study
- to continue her personal and professional growth
- to serve the church by leading worship and adult education as time and interest allow
- to serve in church ministries as time and interest allow
- to be available to congregational members for conversations regarding faith and spirituality, as time and interest allow
- to maintain an awareness of developments in our conference and denomination, and to serve as a link between the congregation and the broader church, as appropriate
- to take on leadership roles in the conference and denomination as time and interest allow (serving as NYMC moderator until Sept. 2013)
- to officiate at weddings as appropriate
- to uphold ethical standards for leaders as outlined in [A Mennonite Polity for Ministerial Leadership](#) (1996, Faith and Life Press, pp 106-127)
- to be accountable to the congregation through the leadership team, and to the conference and denomination through the NYMC leadership commission

As members of Rochester Area Mennonite Fellowship we pledge

- to encourage and support Sonya in her ministry
- to explore with Sonya the ways ordained ministry can enhance the ministry of RAMF
- to continue to exercise our own gifts and ministries with zeal
- to provide accountability and discernment through regular meetings of a group of interested persons, the Minister Congregation Relations Committee
- to review this Covenant and relationship at least annually, typically in May

Through the encouragement we receive from being united in Christ, the comfort from his love, the fellowship with the Spirit, the tenderness and compassion, may our joy be complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

Based on Philippians 2:1-2