

RAMF Congregational Meeting 3 June 2012

Present: Kathy (co-facilitator) & Mark Shelly, Wendy & Rob Shelly, Rachel Stuckey, Stephanie & Dan Giles, Christin & Bryan Babcock, Drew Langdon, Judy Bernhart, Sonya & Roger Kurtz, Nancy Price, Ben Price, Gail & Anthony Ricciuti, Chrissie Walls, , Jason Poole (co-facilitator), Amy Durkee, Samantha Everest, Andrew Buschert, Maria Calderón, Megan & Austin Pettigrew, Bob Carter (notes)

Rachel opened meeting with reading from Eph.

Core Values Statement (attached after minutes)

Mark shared how draft from previous congregational meeting was edited. This involved several relatively minor changes. He also reminded us that the statement represents core *values* not beliefs. The latter would be a much longer document. We tested for consensus and found that most were at a five (full, unreserved support) and one person at a four (some reservations but willing to see it pass) level.

Discussion regarding how to communicate the statement: Could post them in the library. Use them as a background or foundation in meetings where we are discussing major decisions. Could we somehow incorporate it into our recovenanting service? Perhaps make our signing the covenant an affirmation of the values. We should treat it as a living document – one meant to serve, not be served.

Covenant of Understanding between Sonya Stauffer Kurtz and RAMF (attached after Core Values Statement at end of minutes)

A question was asked regarding why this is needed. Partly, because Sonya asked for it. It is helpful for our congregation as this is the first instance of having an ordained minister. To folks outside of RAMF, Sonya describes her role as working part time in our congregation and in the conference. She is ordained, but is not the church pastor. In describing her role to others: it affords and opportunity to share RAMF's core values. We called for a test of consensus and found most at a five level and two at four.

Election of new trustee

Rachel was nominated by LT to take Kathy Shelly's position. Congregation affirmed this unanimously.

Changing RAMF's name

Five years ago we discussed changing our name, and decided then that we did not want to change it. It was said then that we should revisit the issue in five years. The LT is asking for a show of how interested people are in discussing this. There was some discussion about value of using "church" vs "fellowship". The latter seems helpful in our case, since it is descriptive of some our distinctive elements.

A couple people voiced that “RAMF” is not aesthetically appealing. Also, it is not helpful for outreach – may not be clear that we are in fact a church that welcomes visitors. Could drop “area”. Perhaps we could just change our sign. Roger, Jen, Amy, Bryan, Ben will meet to discuss proposals on how this might be approached.

LT report

We have been using our present leadership structure for RAMF for five years and would like to have it assessed for possible overhaul. This will be a topic for this coming year.

Leadership Team was six members last year. Drew and Walt are stepping down, Kathy S., Rachel, Jason and Bob remain.

Worship Ministry: Sonya, Anne, Nancy, Bob

Education Ministry: Mark, Jason, Anthony, Kathy K.

Outreach Ministry: Drew, Bryan, Judy

Pastoral Ministry: Rachel, Wendy, Teresa, Kathy S.

Stewards Ministry: Aaron, Bob

Pledge items that are open: Adult hour, Sunday School coordinator, more members for Stewards, cleaners for weekly cleaning, cleaning coordinator, people to take responsibility for clean up after coffee hour, need people to sign up to be greeters, Administrator position.

Rewriting the RAMF covenant: It was revised about 10 years ago from its original circa 1975. Would like to update it, ensure it accurately reflects us (use core values statement).

Volunteers: Amy, Bob (Bob will ask Walt), Jason

Announcements: Ask that folks take a moment at the end of worship to put their music books away and place the bulletins under the light switches on the cabinet where the music books are stored, so that the sanctuary isn't left in disarray when we leave.

Ministry Team Reports

Education Team will hold a meeting on August 8th to which all are invited to come brainstorm ideas for next year's adult hours.

Stewards are planning to rehab the shed this summer. Workdays will be organized and announced.

Worship Team: thanks to all the many folks who have put so much care and energy into planning and leading worship. We ask that people take a few minutes to sign up for Sundays in the summer. There are materials in the sign up book available through the beginning of Sep. If you have not previously led a service and would like to work with someone on your first go at it, please ask one of the Worship Team members (Sonya, Nancy, Bob, Anne).

Finance Committee has drafted a scholarship application form that will be given to the scholarship committee to be finalized.

Treasurer: We are 1/3rd into our fiscal year. To date we've received a little more than 1/3rd of our projected offerings, and we have given just under 1/3rd of our budgeted giving. As of 2 June 2012 our checking account balance is \$15,450.24, our savings account is at \$9,108.74, and our capital improvement fund is at \$5,301.36.

Core Values Statement

Rochester Area Mennonite Fellowship (RAMF) is a Christian community whose core values include *Reconciling*, *Affirming*, *Mutual participation*, and *Following Christ*:

R*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.

A*ffirming*

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

M*utual participation*

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

F*ollowing Christ*

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

In all these things RAMF affirms its connection with the Mennonite church and identifies with its values and traditions.

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 New York Mennonite Conference (NYMC) moderator until September 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, p. 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 with the Minister-Congregation Relations Committee (MCRC)
- 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