

**Rochester Mennonite Fellowship  
Congregational Meeting Minutes  
March 18, 2018**

**Devotional** [Melissa]

**Leadership Team Report** [Amy]

-Rachel and Aaron are volunteering for the Beaver Camp Retreat Committee. One or two more volunteers are welcome.

-To facilitate free conversation after worship, we will typically hold Adult Hour in the conference room, and we will ring the bell only once to announce the start of Adult Hour.

-It is time for nominations for Leadership Team. LT is hoping to have at least one additional person to join, to take the place of Kathy Shelly, who will be leaving. Melissa, Aaron, Ron, Kathy, and Amy are currently on LT. Terms are typically 2-3 years. Amy distributed nomination forms that also contain a description of Leadership Team role.

**Finance Committee Report** [Jen; Fiscal Year report attached]

There was unanimous approval of the proposed use of our excess funds for the year, as outlined herein:

The following are balances for each of the funds at the end of fiscal year (31 January)

General \$ 15,441 (includes 3K from Chris P estate)

Sharing \$ 2,513

Education \$ 6,081

Immigrant Ed \$ 526

Outreach \$ 3,293

Savings \$ 9,138

CDs (Capital Improvement) \$11,345

Proposal was put for to share our abundance (~ \$ 8,400)

\$ 1,500 to Mennonite Disaster Service's work in Puerto Rico from Hurricane Harvey

\$ 500 to Menno Media

\$ 3,000 to mortgage principal

\$ 1,000 to New York Mennonite Conference

\$ 1,000 to our savings

\$ 1,400 remaining abundance to float up our checking account balance

**Pastoral Committee Report** [Wendy]

-Sunday, June 3, 2018 we will have a farewell for Mark and Kathy Shelly

**Stewardship Committee Report** [Aaron]

-Tree maintenance /replacement and the addition of a bench are planned for this spring, per previously-announced decision for use of funds received from the estate of Chris P.

-The cherry tree and the ash tree are both dying. Plan is to replace the cherry tree first and hold off on the ash as long as possible.

## **Education Ministry Report [Ron]**

-Upcoming Adult Hour: "Getting to Know You" for one Sunday, no Adult Hour on Easter, then studying "The Upside-Down Kingdom" for the remainder of the school year.

## **Worship Ministry Report [Gail]**

-The committee has developed a new "Worship Planning Guide" to assist those preparing to lead worship. This will be available on the "members" section of our website and copies are also available in the worship sign-up book.

-The committee is hoping to encourage people who have not previously led worship to give it a try.

## **VISION STATEMENT DISCERNMENT PROCESS [Terry Zehr]**

-Terry facilitated a small group reflection around developing a Vision Statement for our fellowship. We started our small group discussion by considering the Strengths and Challenges of our Fellowship discussed at the last meeting [See Attached].

-Asked to draw a picture of our Vision, each small group independently drew a variety of a TREE to illustrate our vision, and each group shared their comments:

- Reaching out, deepening our roots

- Welcome, witness, and nurturing faith

- Purposefully accountable community that spreads the love of Christ in the Rochester area

- Rooted, sustainable, stable but changing with the seasons, dormant for half of the year.

- God calls us into a welcoming community for the nurture of our faith in order to offer a witness in the world—to justice, mercy, and peace.

COMMON THEMES: rooted/deepening, reaching out (spreading/fruitful), community (welcoming, nurturing and accountable), shade, inviting, alive, nourishing

Additional Sharing: The relevance of a song we commonly sing about trees (Sing the Story #116), Jesus' comparison of the Kingdom of God to a mustard seed, Jesus' metaphor of vine and branches.

TOP IDEAS: Rooted community, reaching out/fruits/spread, nurturing/welcoming, tree as metaphor

PLAYING WITH THE IDEA OF TREE AS METAPHOR: seasons, healing, shade, stability, fruit, grafting in, supporting other growth, enriching, rooted, inviting, sheltering, growing, life-giving, home for many, welcoming, hope, witness, preventing cultural erosion, nurturing/nourishing, down and up, stability and change, many parts, nesting, climbing, durable, long life, slow metabolism

**Conclusion: Terry suggested that the REVIVE team take the reflections shared today and develop a Vision Statement that captures the themes discussed today and post this Vision Statement in a public area for the congregation to reflect on, modify if needed, and ultimately adopt as our own.**

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## **Strengths and Challenges of our Fellowship [Compiled at our prior Congregational Meeting]**

### **Strengths**

#### Community

- Care for each other/supportive
- Value the gifts of many
- Hospitality
- Intellectual depth/passion
- Generous
- Wealth of knowledge, skill, competencies for church life

#### Faith

- Culture of living out our faith in all areas of our lives
- Jesus focused and Bible-infused
- Anabaptist heritage, peace church niche
- Broad Participation

### **Challenges**

- Small groups (to help people become more engaged in the community, nurture spiritual life)
- Connect/engage those outside
  - those who come through PIRI and those in the Park Ave/Cobbs Hill area
  - Connecting to people in this community/neighborhood
  - Students
  - Welcome to the neighborhood
  - Joining broader church/faith communities/organizations
- Communicate who we are
  - Information in the building
  - To the neighbors
  - Articulating vision
- Build up the body
  - Support those who are here
  - Engage
  - Identify, teach, encourage, and strengthening gifts
  - Leadership/Followership
  - Less cerebral and more Spirit-led in our discernment

Photos of images drawn by each group follow:

~~Worship~~  
~~Worship~~

Purposefully  
 accountable <sup>Multiplying</sup>  
 Community that spreads  
 the Love of Christ  
 in the Rochester  
 Area

Welcome  
 Worship  
 Witness  
 Nurturing  
 Faith

GOD CALLS US  
 INTO A WELCOMING  
 COMMUNITY, FOR THE NURTURE  
 OF OUR FAITH, IN ORDER TO  
 OFFER A WITNESS IN THE  
 WORLD - TO JUSTICE, MERCY,  
 & PEACE.

