

*Congregational Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2019*

In attendance: Paul, Eloise, Jim, Carol, Aaron, Bob, Gail, Anthony, Rob, Ron, Steve, Teresa, Billy, Walt, Amy, Rachel, Jen, Nancy

Opened with prayer led by Aaron

1. The following proposal for distribution of 2018 budget surplus was accepted.

Proposal for 2018 budget surplus

As discussed and affirmed at the February congregational meeting, the finance ministry proposes the following regarding the roughly \$7,000 abundance from the fiscal year that closed on 31 January 2018:

- Designate almost **\$1,950 to restore the organizational giving** that received cuts in our approved FY2019 budget. (i.e., \$300 to Mennonite Central Committee; \$200 each to Mennonite Men & Mennonite Women; \$50 Mennonite Mission Network; \$300 to racial & ethnic leadership; \$250 to PiRI; and to Mennonite Education as follows: \$250 to colleges, \$100 to seminaries, \$300 to Mennonite Ed) We would disburse these amounts throughout the next fiscal year as and when we give to each of these organizations;*
- Give **\$1,000 to NYMC**, general budget;*
- Use **\$2,300 towards the purchase of chairs**. The total expected cost is likely to be \$3,000-\$3,500, already partially covered by our 2019 budget; and*
- Put **\$2,000 to the building mortgage principle**.*

2. Building use policy update –

Bob, Dan and Izzie met and went through our current document. They are reworking it to bring more definition around certain aspects and adding in some accountability mechanisms. Given change in PiRI staff and what appears to be increase in use, we (stewards, Izzie, and administrator) will also be meeting this spring with PiRI representatives and discuss next year's contract and how to work better together.

Gail asked what current understanding is for how far in advance space needs to be reserved. Bob explained there isn't yet a firm understanding.

Bob reiterated that the intention is to set a time by which sanctuary must be clear on Saturdays to allow for set-up for Sunday. Probably will be 3 or 4 pm, with exceptions made as needed.

3. Landscape update - Melissa provided the following in advance, given her absence

Front shrubs and Japanese Maple were pruned so that they aren't growing into each other. Hopefully the bush that is supposed to cover our front wall meter will enjoy the newly available sunlight and grow more lush! Backyard Forsythia also pruned. Neighbor Amy took down all her Forsythia so it will look a lot less dense there.

Chris Passaneau memorial tree service will happen early June; the tree will be planted before that. We are still looking for a good size tree, and awaiting new spring shipments to local nurseries.

The neighbor's tree removal guy took down a small tree for us (it was in his way) and ground up all of our branch pile as a thank you for letting him use our yard. I'm not sure what the plan is for the remaining stump on the neighbor's property that is substantially high.

4. Ministry reports

Education - March 31, Chris Phillips will talk about his mindfulness classes and coaching. April 7 will be a "Getting to Know You" session with Carol, Jim, Ben, and Hanna. April 14 Rachel Long will discuss her work in Guatemala. Series after Easter: "sustainable energy and transportation" led by Bob. This will replace the series originally planned on climate change. After that series, Rob will lead "rethinking incarceration" a series in June

Worship - thank you to all who have signed up to lead services. When people sign up in advance, much easier on worship ministry.

Stewards - nothing to report

Finance - Jen is now our only authorized user on our accounting software. This was done to save us a considerable amount of money. Rob will also be added to CNB online banking for oversight of Jen's work (deposits/withdrawals)

Pastoral - nothing to report

Leadership team - Encouraged people to prayerfully consider Leadership Team nominations and complete and return forms for this. Forms are on the microwave in the kitchen and there's a box for submitting nominations (due by April 7). Can also send electronic version of nomination form to contact@rochestermennonite.org by April 7.

Gift Pledge process coming in May. Amy asks that ministries start thinking now about any changes they might want to that process for their ministry

Treasurer's report - transactions accurate for 15 march 2019:

Our General Fund \$22,610

(this includes \$11,700 income since 1 february2019 and \$4275 in expenditures)

Sharing Fund \$1513

Education at Mennonite Institution Fund \$6081

Education for Immigrant Recipient Fund \$526

Savings \$10641 (total of two accounts, our longstanding act at CNB and our new one with Everence, opened with \$500)

Capital Fund \$12430 (total of 2 CD's plus \$1000 held in designated awaiting maturity)

Outreach Fund \$3294

Our mortgage principal balance is \$76,223

There is a March special offering underway to benefit CPT and there will be an April special offering including coin collection to benefit Beaver Camp.