

Rochester Mennonite Fellowship
Congregational Meeting
November 16, 2025

Facilitator: Tom
Minutes: Rachel M

Present: Tom, Julio, Eloise, Walt, Andrew, Ben, Ruth, Anthony, Gail, Billy, Nancy, Anna, Rachel M, Sebastian, Kathy, Carol

Opening

Eloise began the meeting with a devotional reflection. She touched on gifts of the Spirit focusing on generosity in how we use our time, energy and financial resources. She concluded by reading a prayer from VT.

Piri requested to hang a large piece of wall art in the conference room.
Nobody objects

Presentation and discussion of the budget

Tom presented the proposed budget. The 2026 budget maintains planned giving to organizations from the past year.

Tom noted expenses coming up, including utilities for the final quarter of 2025, cleaning, admin services, taxes, liability insurance, and a transfer to the capital reserve fund.

After these expenses are paid, Tom expects we will still have a reasonable surplus at the end of the year.

A proposal was made to give money to the The Corinthian Plan (a fund that paid staff members in Mennonite churches can access to help with expenses, medical bills, hardships etc.)

Gail asked if this fund helps or affects anyone in our church. Tom answers no, but it is a way of sharing and helping fellow Mennonite leaders.

It was decided that we will give \$100 to the Corinthian Plan this year with money that we receive from the Sunday offering.

It was noted that the 2025 pastoral care budget has extra money from a donation that was made to help the Mirandas pay for a taxi service to church. Tom will ask the donor if the rest of the money can be given to the family as a donation.

Tom pointed out that there is \$400 we can repurpose from a planned donation to the Mennonite USA Racial and Ethnic Leadership program. This is no longer a specific project from MCUSA so there was nowhere to send the check.

A proposal was made that we donate this money to hispanic groups under MCUSA to support the development of hispanic churches and ministries. There were no objections to this, but a

specific ministry or program will need to be named as the new recipient which will require a future decision.

Kathy described a meeting she had with consultants from Everence regarding RMF receiving support from Everence in becoming a bilingual church.

She told us that the language consultant expressed willingness to come speak about becoming a bilingual congregation.

There may be some costs or fees associated with this. Tom said this can be covered by the budget. It was also noted that Kathy can apply to Everence for matching grants up to \$2500.

Kathy asked why nothing was budgeted for the antiracism and inclusion ministry. Carol shared this concern. Tom specified that nothing was budgeted specifically for this in 2025 either. Some of the ministry activities and trainings for this were paid for by the justice fund and we may also use the outreach fund for future ministry expenses. Tom said even if it is not specifically listed in the budget we can use surplus money for expenses in this and other ministries.

It was ultimately agreed that we should budget \$100 for the anti-racism and inclusion ministry in the upcoming year.

\$14,900 was given for the new tech system and upgrades, but this project cost less than we expected so there is still \$8,960 left over. Tom still needs to reimburse Bob for some expenses. After that, Tom will reach out to the donor to see what they want to use the rest of the money for. Carol also mentioned that there had been some discussion about getting a smart TV for the conference room with the leftover money.

Tom reminded us he does not track what anybody pledges or donates. Nobody owes anything to the church just because they made a pledge. Pledges are made only to provide an estimate of funds for the coming year.

Anthony asked for clarification about pledges and donations made to the Mennonite Conference. He asked if we have to specify on the checks that the donation is intended for the conference. Tom said no, if a pledge was made to the conference then it appears in the budget and it will get paid.

Billy added that if anyone wants to give something over their pledge amount to NYMC then make sure to tell Tom specifically.

It was noted that the budget is higher for this coming year than it was last year. The additional expenditures that were decided upon for the 2026 budget were balanced by an increase in the expected offerings. Tom will add \$200 to budget line 4000.

The total proposed budget is \$54,160.

The budget was approved, see it attached below.

Thank you to everyone who worked on the budget!

Fund: All

Account	Last Year Budget (2025)	2026 Budget
Income		
<u>Income</u>		
4000 - Offerings	38,090.00	38,640.00
4001 - Special Offerings		
4002 - Interest, Checking		
4003 - Interest, Savings		
4004 - Interest, CD		
4005 - Rental Income	6,360.00	6,360.00
4006 - Everence Matching		
4007 - Income, Other		
4008 - Income, Rochester MVS Fund		
4009 - Offering, Designated		
4010 - NYMC Pledges	7,200.00	8,160.00
4011 - Sharing Fund Offerings		
4020 - Use of Education Fund Balance		1,000.00
4021 - Use of Outreach Fund Balance		
4022 - Use of Justice Fund Balance		
Total Income	51,650.00	54,160.00

Account	Last Year Budget (2025)	2026 Budget
Expense		
<u>Expense</u>		

Congregational Meeting 11/16/2025

Account	Last Year Budget (2025)	2026 Budget
5000 - Facilities: Mortgage		
5001 - Corinthian Plan		100.00
5002 - Mennonite Church USA	500.00	500.00
5003 - Mennonite Disaster Service	800.00	800.00
5004 - Mennonite Central Committee	400.00	500.00
5005 - Mennonite Men USA	300.00	300.00
5006 - Mennonite Women USA	300.00	300.00
5007 - Mennonite Voluntary Service		
5008 - Mennonite World Conference	200.00	200.00
5009 - Mennonite Mission Network		
5010 - MennoMedia	400.00	400.00
5015 - Mennonite Education:Colleges	500.00	500.00
5016 - Mennonite Education: Seminaries	200.00	200.00
5017 - Mennonite Education Agency	400.00	400.00
5018 - Mennonite USA Racial & Ethnic Leadership Education	400.00	
5019 - The Center for Teen Empowerment	100.00	210.00
5020 - Beaver Camp	500.00	500.00
5021 - Community Peacemaker Teams	500.00	500.00
5022 - Home Missions: Mennonite Volunteer Services		
5023 - NY Mennonite Conference	7,200.00	8,160.00
5024 - PiRI (Partners in Restorative Initiatives)		

Congregational Meeting 11/16/2025

Account	Last Year Budget (2025)	2026 Budget
5025 - M. K. Gandhi Institute	400.00	400.00
5026 - Supportive Communities Network		200.00
5027 - St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center		
5028 - Catholic Family Services		
5029 - Gloria Foundation		
5030 - Sharing Fund		
5040 - Scholarships		1,000.00
5045 - Scholarships, Immigrant		
5050 - Admin: Office & Postage	1,600.00	1,600.00
5051 - Admin: Telecommunications	1,500.00	2,200.00
5052 - Admin: Services	4,500.00	4,500.00
5055 - Subscriptions	950.00	881.00
5056 - Hospitality & Gifts	250.00	300.00
5057 - Misc. Local		34.00
5060 - Leadership Team	100.00	100.00
5061 - Facilities: City & County Fees	1,200.00	1,200.00
5062 - Facilities: Cleaning	2,400.00	2,400.00
5063 - Facilities: Custodial Supplies	250.00	250.00
5064 - Facilities: Insurance	2,700.00	2,100.00
5065 - Facilities: Building Maintenance	2,500.00	2,500.00
5066 - Facilities: Grounds Maintenance	2,500.00	2,500.00
5067 - Facilities: Utilities & Refuse	2,750.00	4,300.00
5068 - Facilities - Capital Reserve	6,500.00	6,500.00

Congregational Meeting 11/16/2025

Account	Last Year Budget (2025)	2026 Budget
5070 - Decor		75.00
5071 - Furnishings		
5075 - Education: Adult Hour	200.00	200.00
5076 - Education: Sunday School	100.00	200.00
5077 - Education: Safe Ministries	50.00	50.00
5080 - Outreach Ministry		
5081 - Inclusion & Anti-Racism Ministry		100.00
5082 - Justice Fund		
5085 - Pastoral Care Ministry	100.00	100.00
5090 - Worship Ministry	250.00	250.00
5095 - Youth Ministry	100.00	100.00
5099 - Delegate, Biennial MCUSA	1,500.00	
5100 - Library	250.00	250.00
5101 - Sponsorships		
5102 - Speakers	200.00	200.00
5103 - Seminars	100.00	100.00
5104 - Retreat	6,000.00	6,000.00
5105 - Projects		
5200 - Building		
5300 - Rochester MVS Unit Expense		
5301 - Rochester MVS Expense		
5400 - Designated		
Total Expense	51,650.00	54,160.00

Congregational Meeting 11/16/2025

Account	Last Year Budget (2025)	2026 Budget
Net Income		