

FMC Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

February 4th, 2018

Present: Darren Newcomer, Angie Newcomer, Grace Newcomer, Jan Miller, Ray Miller, Jan Althaus, Paul Brenneman, Evelyn Brenneman, Warren Croyle, Megan Croyle, Kenny Rohrer, Norma Rohrer, Charles Bontrager, Jerry Newcomer, Barb Newcomer, Marirose Power, Mark Haas, Chris Chamberlin, Ron Chamberlin, Lois Chamberlin, Jenny Newcomer-Haas

Charles welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer.

New Business: Ron Chamberlin reported on the FMC website. From January 2017 to current there have been 2359 views. Posted bulletins have been viewed 773 times and the sermon 525 times.

Conversation about church structure: The steering team reported that they are happy with the structure and feels it is going well. They also reported that they liked the quarterly planning meetings with the congregation and feel they are helpful in getting ideas of what is important in the life of the church. The steering team would like to continue with the current structure for another year. Charles invited comments/feedback.

- Feel it is a better structure than the previous (commissions)
- Want to encourage more participation in the planning meetings (brown bag lunches), and also to encourage others interested in being on the steering team.

Warren Croyle moved that we continue with the current steering team structure for another year, and evaluate the process again at that time. Jan Althaus 2nd the motion. Show of hands were in favor.

Disbursements: Norma reported that there is \$1400 from the dividends to be disbursed. The recommendation is as follows:

Commitment to our Missionary Partners- Mark and Mary Hurst- \$700

MCC Meat canning- \$100

Salvation Army- \$200

Mennonite Disaster Service- \$200

Ted & Company- \$200

Barb Newcomer moved that we approve the recommendation and Angie Newcomer 2nd the motion. Show of hands were in favor.

2018 Spending Plan: Norma presented the proposed spending plan. It was noted that there will be an increase in the utilities. The maintenance also had an increase due to recent furnace repairs. The Pastor package was increased, and a slight increase for administrative staff.

In 2017, \$17,000 was moved from savings to cover expenses. This year there is a deficit of \$17,000, so funds many need to be pulled again to balance the budget.

Norma was thanked for her work as treasurer over the past year!

Ron Chamberlin moved to accept the 2018 spending plan as written. Mark Haas 2nd the motion. Show of hands were in favor.

Discernment discussion on FMC becoming a welcoming and affirming congregation:

This past fall the Sunday School class held a several weeks discussion on Human Sexuality. It was well attended, but not as many from the congregation as hoped. This was to begin the further discussions on whether we as a congregation are wanting to be a welcoming and affirming congregation. Charles noted that there is a theological side to this process, and also a practical side. We can say we are welcoming, but will people actually feel welcome? What does further conversation and discernment look like/what should our next step be? Discussion followed. Some expressed the concern with prolonging the process, while others felt we needed more input. Some suggestions were to have Safe Space training, or to talk with other congregations that have been through the process (Columbus Mennonite, Wadsworth UCC). There was a consensus that there should be further discernment. In hopes that more congregation members will participate in the discernment, a rotating schedule of Sunday school hour/after church time will begin March 4th. March 4th and 18th will be during the Sunday school hour, and March 11th and 25th will be after church.

Meeting adjourned/

Submitted by: Jenny Newcomer-Haas