

Leadership Group Minutes APPROVED
September 5, 2023 @ 7:00pm at AMC

Present: Scott Coulter, Sara Morris, Anna Yoder Schlabach, Alex Graber Neufeld, Randy Roth, Cheryl Shreiner, Ben Sywulka, Trevor Daugherty, Isaiah Friesen (intern), Becky Overholt (minute taker), Lora Nafziger (on Zoom), Leon Bauman (on Zoom)

Absent: Karl Shelly

Opening

1. Opening: Ben
2. June 6, 2023 LG minutes - Highlights. (Leadership Group approved [June 6, 2023 Minutes](#) on 7/6/23 via email.)

Discussion/Action

3. Pledge Form- Scott presented the proposed pledge form for 2024.
Question: “Will there be a space on this form for pledging for the building fund?” Randy explained that with the short time between now and May, they chose not to include that. People are still welcome to do that. Is there an actual amount per household that would meet the payoff? Scott figured around \$250/month for the next 9 months would be close to that. Anna would like to see all the pledging on one form - operations, building, 2%. Randy reports that the Finance Committee discussed this and felt that giving toward the building is above budget giving. There would be updates on the building giving about every 3 weeks. Option: edit the current pledge form by adding something about pledging over & above for the building in the next 9 months. Recommendation this be sent back to Finance Committee for further discussion
3. Treasurer's Report
We are behind on our pledges and our spending is up. How do we want to send out this information? Recommendation to make an announcement in the Assemblyline now. Scott will do this.
4. Budget Build Form
All committees are sent a budget build to request what they need. Scott has put in numbers for LG but they are up for discussion. Mission Support hasn't been used for several years. Lora reports this line item has historically been used for Ministry Inquiry, Explore, VS, etc. Search committee budget: Scott determined this by looking at what was spent during 2019. Clarification given on Members' Needs. Budget build form approved.
5. Student Aid Policy Language Update
Sara presented a proposal from Student Aid Committee to change the wording of Bethany Schools “middle school and high school” to “grades 6-12” to better reflect the current language used by the school. This was approved.

6. Scott's Ordination Letter

LG expressed appreciation for the letter written by the Ordination Committee. Sara will compile a letter of recommendation for the conference minister. Cheryl will write an update from the committee to the congregation for the Assemblyline

7. MYF Sponsor 2023-2024

Lora reported that the MYF search committee would like to recommend Stephen Lowe as an MYF sponsor for the 2023-2024 year. This is a 5-hour/week position. Kelsey & Douglas Hulbert agreed to be volunteers. LG affirmed this recommendation.

8. 2023 State of the Congregation report

Randy Roth & Leon Bauman were assigned to work on this.

9. Search Committee Follow-Up

LG processed forming a committee with varied gifts and perspectives. The proposed pastor job descriptions were discussed and will be brought to the September Congregational Meeting for first reading. Also discussed the working transition plan & FTE changes during the interim time.

10. Next Congregational Meeting Agenda

-September 17, 2023 during 2nd hour

-Glenn Gilbert. will facilitate, Barb Swartley will record minutes

-Agenda to include: Search Committee update, first reading of Pastoral position job description

Information/Reporting

11. 50th Anniversary Celebration Update- (update from Eric Yordy)

-The Committee (Mary Lehman Yoder, Linda & Dana Miller, Susan Nelson, Lois Nafziger, Beck Unternahrer, John Blosser, Tobias Magatti, Ruth Kauffmann and Brian Roots) is scheduled to hold their first meeting in September. They have inquired about a budget, and will be looking at anticipated costs at their meeting.

12. Capital Campaign Update

-The second capital campaign was formally kicked off during worship on Sunday, August 27. The basics of the campaign was covered. The plan (from Dennis, John and Randy) is to continue to share more with the congregation here and there in the coming weeks.

13. Welcome Statement Committee Update

-The Welcome Statement Committee - Scott Coulter, Kate Kennedy, Stephen Lowe, Jenna Martin, Sara Morris, Regina Shands Stoltzfus – met on 8/30/23 via Zoom. Regina and Stephen agreed to be co-facilitators. We named many questions about the task and process of the group, with special focus on ideas for congregational involvement early in the process. Regina, Stephen, and Scott will be working together to plan the agenda and schedule for the next committee meeting.

14. LGBTQ+ Reparations Historical Background

- In Dec 2020, LG invited two AMC participants who identify as LGBTQ+ to write their individual perspectives on AMC's history of processing LGBTQ+ inclusion. LG said: "Maybe out of that telling there would be things that come up that should be formally acknowledged. Maybe the work can grow out of this retelling by folks who experienced it." (The possibility of reviewing the 1999 Welcome Statement also came up in this LG conversation). Pastors followed up with these participants about sharing their perspectives in writing, and both said yes, but they have not given us anything in writing.

15. School Support Update

-A request from the Student Aid Committee came through to update language in the student aid policy (see Agenda item 5), and for discussion on a congregational decision to provide student aid for all Bethany students (Grades K-12). We would like to have a much larger Leadership Group Discussion on support for our schools at the October LG Meeting.

16. PT reports

Scott closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38pm

Submitted by Becky Overholt

Approved by LG on 10/3/23