

Leadership Group Minutes

October 3, 2023

Present: Sara Morris, Ben Sywulka, Anna Yoder Schlabach, Randy Roth, Leon Bauman, Alex Neufeld, Cheryl Shreiner, Lora Nafziger, Isaiah Friesen, Karl Shelly, Trevor Daugherty, Scott Coulter, Naomi Roots (minutes)

Opening

1. Opening: Cheryl
2. September 5, 2023 LG Minutes- APPROVED
3. September 17, 2023 Congregational Meeting Minutes- APPROVED

Discussion/Action

4. Pastoral Transition
 - a. Interim Coverage + FTE APPROVED- Sara ([attachment](#))
 - With Lora leaving, Assembly no longer has a mental health professional on the pastoral team (PT). PT is suggesting the congregation have a mental health professional from within Assembly work as a liaison with the pastors to walk with participants during mental health crises.
 - Pastors suggest creating a small (2-3 person) committee to support the pastor overseeing small groups. Karl will work to have a job description for this new committee for December LG meeting.
 - b. Internal Candidate Support ([attachment](#))
 - These documents will be sent out in a listserv to the congregation about the upcoming Congregational Meeting.
5. 9/30/24 Wedding Alcohol Use Request
 - LG APPROVED the use of alcohol for a champagne toast and spiked punch at an upcoming wedding of a Faith Mennonite couple.
6. Reparations & Royalties Idea Fragment- Sara ([attachment](#))
 - LG is interested in this being explored. This idea will be passed along to the Reparations Committee to explore.
7. School Support Conversation- Sara ([attachment](#))
 - LG took time to identify and name some questions surrounding this topic; they were documented in order to help guide planning for continued conversation.
8. Next Congregational Meeting Agenda
 - October 8, 2023 (2nd Hour) Agenda to include: 2nd Reading of PT Job Descriptions

Information/Reporting

9. Search Committee Update- Sara (update from Bethany Swope and Tom Kauffman)

- Bethany and Tom met with Doug Luginbill on Sept. 29 for chair orientation. Bethany, Tom, and Karl are scheduled to meet Oct. 2 and then will dig into the Congregational Information Form. Orientation for the full committee with Doug is scheduled for Oct. 5.
10. World Communion Sunday Report- Pastoral Team
- Anna and Scott led a second hour 10/1/23 presenting changes in communion words of invitation and in how children are included. Feedback was collected from second hour participants. We hope to have further opportunities for congregational discernment in the future.
11. Treasurer's Report- Scott ([attachment](#))
- Expenses exceed offering by \$39,000 as of 9/30/23. We need \$58,000 in offerings each month Oct-Dec in order to meet anticipated expenses.
 - LG would like to communicate to the congregation that due to inflation and larger than anticipated costs at MennoCon, AMC has had larger than anticipated expenditures this year. They plan to include this information in a blurb in the Assemblyline and as a verbal announcement Sunday morning.
12. Capital Campaign Update- Randy (update from Dennis Landis)
- The Capital Campaign (CC II) was introduced to the congregation during worship on 8/27, and has been added to the 2024 Pledge Form. There will be short reminders throughout fall/winter, that may include ways in which the building has made things better/special. John Nafziger reports several members have been contributing regularly to the building project.
13. 50th Anniversary Celebration Update- Sara (update from Eric Yordy)
- The group had their first meeting on 9/18, and spent most of the time sharing stories/memories and brainstorming possible themes. We are leaning toward some Sunday morning “moments” during the worship service (need to touch base with the Worship Committee) culminating in a larger evening or weekend event. Eric Yordy was named Chair at that meeting, and the group plans to meet again in 2-3 weeks.
14. Welcome Statement Committee Update- Scott and Sara
- Scott met with co-chairs Regina & Stephen on 9/27 to plan next steps. The committee is seeking resources/support from Supportive Communities Network/BMC, and looking at other communities’ statements. The committee will meet again 10/11.
15. LGBTQ+ Reparations- Sara
- The plan is to have a larger discussion at our November LG meeting. Attached is the supporting document from our August LG meeting.*
16. Pastors’ Reporting

Closing

17. Prayer for the Congregation (Lora)

Executive Session

Next Congregational Meeting: October 8, 2023 (Sunday)

Next Leadership Group Meeting: November 7, 2023 (Tuesday) at 7 pm

Approved by LG on 11/7/2023