

First Mennonite Church
Congregational Meeting Minutes
February 03, 2019

Attendees: Laurie and Ryan Ahlgrim, Murray Ellison, Ellen and Darrell Basinger, Sandy Elliott, Margaret and Bob Bruckhart, Ponpun and Stan Nickel, Joel, Maggie and Joe Sprunger, Marla and Craig Wilson, Sandra and Paul Joireman, Elaine Rogers and Brenden Hayes, Jack and “JT” Nix, Rosalie and Bob Eshleman, Edie Holsopple, Deborah Aulick, Jean and Don Oswald, Bev and Kevin Smeltzer, Ken Wermuth, Julie and Jim Lehman, Dehanna Jordan

Darrell Basinger called the meeting to order and offered a prayer seeking God’s wisdom and guidance in our decisions over the abundance we have been entrusted with as stewards.

Pastor’s Report

Growth

- We added two new members in 2018, and transferred one to another church.
- Current total: 78 + 2 associate members (up one from last year)
- 67 mailboxes (2 inactive households), plus 4 active households without mailboxes.
- Current total active households: 69 (up 8 from last year)
- 2 new infants: Zoe Ford and Akira Kurbel

Notable Accomplishments:

- Well-attended bus tour of Richmond’s African American history
- Co-sponsored with Speaking Spirit Ministries to bring Daryl Davis to Richmond to speak
- Summer adult class surveyed Richmond-area peace and justice-related ministries, helping us develop FMC’s mission strategy and focus
- Hosted two Lombard Mennonite Peace Center workshops for church leaders
- Began renovation of our nursery playground

Coming Up

- Launching a new church website (with video) in January
- Shabbat meal and dialogue about social justice ministries with members of Temple Beth-El on March 1st

Scripture reflecting on the work at FMC (Philippians 1:6)

“I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.”

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Stewardship Report

Close of 2018 Budget

- Kevin Smeltzer provided a financial overview of FMC's 2018 budget highlighting the approved budget of \$219,752.00 and the actual income of \$224,317.54. A motion was made and unanimously approved moving 2018's net income of \$2011.85 into FMC's Abundance Giving Fund.

Proposed 2019 Budget

- Kevin Smeltzer reviewed the attached budget proposal (addendum 1) in which a total 2019 budget of \$237,443.00 was unanimously approved.
- Points of Discussion
 1. Worshiping Training (Item 51400) was clarified as funding available to cover travel expenses for music leaders and worship leaders participating in an annual 2-day workshop.
 2. Sandra Joireman suggested increasing the amount to be given to the Virginia Conference (\$3,000) to help compensate the loss of 2-congregations and additional operating expenses. In view of additional gifts submitted to the Virginia Conference in September 2018 (\$4,000) and via the Abundance Giving Fund in January 2019 (\$3,000), it was agreed that FMC's 2020 budget would include an increase (\$3,000) for the conference.
 3. Murray Ellison suggested submitting major reports to the congregation via separate emails to avoid the possibility of a report getting lost within other attachments in the secretary's email to the congregation on Friday's.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Darrell Basinger