

Administrative Cabinet Minutes
January 20, 2016

Present: Jennifer Yoder, Tim Krabill, Diane Funk, Steve Ropp, Rosie Hochstetler, Del Miller, Gordon Scoville, Larry Swartzendruber

1. Gordon opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. Minutes from the October meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. Mary Forney was approved as the Administrative Assistant. Mary was also approved by electronic vote to use the church's credit card.
4. Phone system: We discussed the issue of the possible need for a new phone system. We will ask Mary to investigate options and report back to Ad Cabinet.
5. Computer/s: It was brought to the attention of Ad Cabinet that the office computer needs to be replaced. It is possible that we may need new computers when new pastors are hired but it was decided that the new pastors need to be involved in that decision. We discussed the history of hiring IT support. FMC used RJ Enders in the past but most recently had support from Nate Yoder. Del will speak with Sarah Gingerich regarding past IT support providers and will make a plan to engage a new IT support company. It was decided to work with the IT support company with regard to the purchase of a new computer for the office and/or multiple computers once the pastors are hired and need determined.
6. Trustees received several inquiries about placing electronic door assists on the downstairs bathrooms near the fellowship hall. Given the expense related to this it was decided to explore other options first. One option is to decrease the tension on the current closers to make the doors easier to open. The second is to remove the closers all together. The doors currently have a latching mechanism on them that will allow them to be manually closed and latched. Since the doors of both bathrooms are located behind a wall, there is natural visual screening. Trustees will be asked to explore these options.
7. Parking for the Blake Shelton concert: Ad Cabinet approved parking during the upcoming concert in August. Money raised will be held in the Football parking fund until a decision is made on where it will be designated.
8. Weekly parking: Diane worked with Andrea on her ideas for improving the weekly parking. Administering the weekly parking takes up too much administrative time. Diane will create an electronic parking request form and put the permit holders into a database. Guidelines for parking permits will be revised and reviewed by Ad Cabinet.

Commission Reports:

Christian Ed

Jim Grossnickle-Batterton will be teaching an adult SS class on Christian/Islam dialogue every other Sunday beginning in Feb. The MYF is making plans to do a service project at Rocky Mountain Camp this summer. On January 10th, we introduced the idea of faithnet, encouraging meaningful relationships between all ages to help grow our faith. Mary Forney led the youth in identifying their own faithnet, and we are encouraging the congregation to identify their faithnet during the next several weeks in the worship service. Because of this emphasis, we are discontinuing the mentor/mentee program at FMC. A letter will be sent to the youth, their parents and current mentors.

Next year Kids Who Care will be suspended until there are more children in this age group. As the current children get to grade five they will be invited to join Jr. MYF

Mission

1. Our Advent Giving project was for the “Quito Property Fund” to help the Christian Anabaptist Mennonite Churches of Ecuador and the Quito Mennonite Church to own their own property. Our goal was for FMC to contribute \$1000 toward this fund. FMC contributions totaled \$3,090.
2. Jim Brenneman has been providing updates on happenings with the Iglesia Zoar mission at Reynosa, Mexico. The East Union congregation has agreed to partner with us in support of the work of Pastor Jose. We hope for more partners to join, including contacts Jim has made in Texas. Jose was thankful for our gifts of school supplies and blankets for the people there. We are hopeful that Jose and his family will be able to make a visit to Iowa this year, perhaps in September or October.
3. We are working with MCC IVEP and the Crowded Closet to bring another volunteer to Iowa City from abroad next year. Our host home will be provided by Barb Freyenberger. Currently, we await MCC to find a good match for us here as they study volunteer applications.
4. We have updated the list of mission partners and FMC liaisons. We continue updates to mission information on our website and the description of mission opportunities in our community.
5. Circe Stumbo and Jerry partridge organized the community Interfaith Service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. hosted by FMC January 17th. Thanks to the many people and commissions of FMC that helped plan and carry out this very meaningful event.

Stewardship

1. Year-to-date General Fund giving has been \$97,548 compared with \$97,237 for the same period last year. Year-to-date expenses have been generally in line with budget projections.
 - a. Carol is working with Tim Krabill to facilitate payments to MCC for the International Visitor Exchange Program.
 - b. Thanks to a generous donation from the Orpha Kempf estate, the church has received \$27,387. Ad Cab will determine how these funds will be used.
2. We discussed the budget implications of increasing our pastors to 2.5 FTE.
3. Discussion items for our next meeting:
 - a. Encourage more people to make use of electronic giving.
 - b. Establish a student scholarship committee.

Fellowship

We celebrated and remembered Bob Summers on October 23rd with a meal after the funeral service. We organized and served a luncheon meal on November 15th as a prelude to Gordon’s 2nd Meeting. A baby shower was provided for Nathan and Grace Swartzendruber for the birth of baby Ira. A family meal was provided for the Bontrager family at Gloria Bontrager’s visitation on December 10th. A meal was also provided after Gloria’s funeral service on December 11th. On December 13th we provided goody bags to the children after the Children’s Pageant and a whole lot of cookies at Sip N See for baby Collete Eicher (John & Julia). We hosted the Annual Christmas Breakfast on December 20th prior to the church service. The cold weather didn’t keep us from warming up with coffee and treats at the Annual Coffee House on January 10th. On January 17th FMC hosted the Interfaith MLK Service and we provided refreshments after the service. Meals have been provided to several members of our congregation including: Wally Brenneman, Byler family, and Wenger family. Along with all of these events we have celebrated the birth of children in the Byler, Eicher and Wenger families.

We are looking forward to upcoming events including: Pancake Dinner (2/9), Hawkeye Basketball Tailgate (2/27), lunch for the Hesston College Choir (3/13), the Annual Easter Breakfast (3/27), and a

baby shower for Amy Hershberger (4/23). We are prepared to help with a luncheon if needed for Gordon's next meeting. And we are anticipating the arrival of Baby Stoltzfus-Detweiler.

Elders

Elders continue to meet twice monthly (though once each in Nov. and Dec.)...

- Sharing pastoral and personal concerns
- Spending time in prayer for stated needs, joys, concerns
- Continue to provide assistance to pastors toward congregational needs
- Formed the search committee for next pastoral leadership
- Serve as a sounding board/advisory group for intentional ministry plans
- Secured Jim Grossnickel-Batterton as interim replacement for Karla (maternity leave)... three months
-

Trustees

- Several church members have requested Handicapped door openers for the Fellowship restroom doors. Checked with Marty Roth and was told the expense for the Sunday School area doors was in the \$7000 dollar range. Ad Cabinet approval is needed for further investigation. Would be a Capital Expense.
- Church staff raised the question of a new phone system for the church offices and conference room. Information on cost is being sought from IPT Communications of Iowa City.
- Noted that the office computer is an XP and is no longer supported. It is slow and outdated (noted by those who use programs for creating the website and service recordings). Seeking Ad Cabinet approval for further investigation into replacement.
- The Trustees did a "walk around" the church and found several window handles in need of replacement. Ken Gingerich will seek replacement parts and installation will be done at the next work session.
- Checked over the carpets and rugs in the Day Care area and Ken Gingerich volunteered to spot clean areas in need of cleaning.
- Day Care is again piling materials in front of the electrical panel. Brenda will talk with the day care people.
- Brenda will investigate and purchase blinds for the front foyer doors to help with window glare during services.
- Two storage areas in the Fellowship Hall will be rearranged with added shelving for better storage for Torre Forte's musical instruments (piled by the furnace room wall) and service materials, and for the Fellowship Commissions extra materials and supplies. Fellowship commission chair was contacted and agreed.