

FMC Stewardship Minutes

November 04, 2012

Attendance:

Lonnie Bartel – Chair; Carol Miller – Treasurer; Cheryl Martin-Miller; Teri Roth; Bob Smith; Rick Eigsti; Bill Schneider

Bill Schneider Presentation on Scholarship Fund

1. At the Fall Congregational Meeting, the Stewardship Commission requested input from the congregation with regard to future funding/distribution of scholarships from the Scholarship Fund.
2. Bill Schneider requested to meet with the Commission to discuss his recommendations going forward. Here are his suggestions:

- a. Each MYF youth would be required to participate in football parking to help raise the monies for the Scholarship Fund. Bill suggested 20-24 Saturdays as a minimum to gain full access to the Fund.
- b. Bill suggested that we might also consider setting some of the Fund aside for those students who opt to go into some form of voluntary service in lieu of attending college.
- c. Bill also suggested that we consider including a portion of the Fund to go to students interested in public institutions and also for “non-traditional” students who might be seeking retraining well after high school. His point being that we should be more “inclusive” in the distribution of the scholarships, even if that were at a lower percentage than those given for Mennonite schools.
 - i. Lonnie pointed out that we have always considered the Fund as a means to support the Mennonite Colleges/Universities and not simply as a means of funding scholarships for FMC youth so as to be mutually beneficial to both the students and the institutions.
 - ii. There was also some discussion as to who the scholarships are available to. It was determined that we do not differentiate between students who have just graduated from high school and non-traditional students and that the Fund is available for both.
 - iii. Addendum via personal privilege of the Chair: Public institutions also do not match the funds given by FMC.

Treasurer’s Report

1. Carol reported on the current cash and spending.
2. Current incomes are behind (month-to-month) what would be needed for the entire year, but that is not too unusual as donations traditionally increase as the year progresses. Carol, will put together a comparison of the giving year-over-year to help the Commission better evaluate our position on an on-going basis.
3. Carol also reported that we have begun to fund the Torre Fuerte congregation at \$500/month initially out of the MYF mission line.
4. Lonnie reported that there was some confusion with the MYF as to how the MYF mission line is handled. He will address this with them so as to run future distributions through an approval process with the Mission Commission.
5. Various items were discussed regarding the report without major changes.

Next Year Goals

1. The Stewardship Commission will work with the Congregation to develop a plan for the Scholarship Fund going forward that will consider providing additional funds for FMC students to offset rising costs of tuition.

2. The Stewardship Commission will work with Wendell Miller to further define the pay for the various tasks of the Football Parking Coordinator and those who perform those tasks when the Coordinator is not available.
3. The Stewardship Commission will determine a protocol for funding of the Torre Fuerte congregation establishing a continuing means of funding for that cause.
4. The Stewardship Commission will develop a fund raiser policy to establish guidelines for those events.

New Business

1. Bob updated the Commission on additional funding that is now being provided by other churches for Torre Fuerte making them fully funded going forward.

Submitted by: Lonnie Bartel

FMC Stewardship Minutes

February 26, 2013

Attendance: Lonnie Bartel – Chair; Carol Miller – Treasurer; Cheryl Martin-Miller; Bob Smith; Rick Eigsti; Jim Grossnickle-Batterton

Treasurer's Report

1. Carol reported on the current cash and spending as of the date of the meeting. She will be sending out a month-end report after the 28th with an update on cash-on-hand as well as giving trends year-over-year.
2. Carol reported on several new line items. Specifically, MDS Hurricane Sandy, MEDA Ethiopia, and MMN-Rodriguez Support which will be carried over to next year for future disbursement.

Scholarship Funding

5. The Commission discussed possible increases to the funding of the Student Scholarship line. Lonnie led the discussion relating that there are two important aspects to the funding equation.
 - a. First, the amount available to the fund must be sustainable with future incomes. It was determined that such funding would be available to meet an increase with the number of students currently anticipated to attend Mennonite Colleges.
 - b. Second, the amount of the increase must be achievable without undue impact on the cash flow of the operating budget, i.e. because the outflow of cash to the colleges/seminaries comes in two large “chunks” that amount should not deplete the checking account in such a way as to make it difficult to fund our other obligations.
6. Several scenarios were discussed and it was determined that an increase of \$500/year for the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th years of attendance at a Mennonite College would be achievable without undue impact on the cash flow. The Stewardship Commission will bring this recommendation to the Ad. Cabinet at its next meeting for their consideration / approval. Additionally, the Stewardship Commission will recommend that the Scholarship Fund be looked at annually to discern if future increases would be possible.

Mission Commission Request

Bob updated Stewardship on Mission Commission's proposal to help those interested in serving in missions. The Mission Commission would like to request a line item for a “Mission Scholarship Fund”. The Mission Commission will establish guidelines for the disbursement of the funds.

MYF Spending Adjustments

The MYF has reported that their original estimates for the Youth Convention will be short of expectations and that they will need to make adjustments to their portion of the spending plan in order to fund the trip. Lonnie, Bob, and Carol are working with Karla to make the necessary adjustments. Some of the other MYF spending lines will be used to help fund the Convention expenses without impact on the remainder of the Spending Plan.

New Business

1. Stewardship Sunday is tentatively scheduled for April 21st. Cheryl suggested that Jeff Swarzentruer from Everence would be available to give a presentation during the Sunday School hour on Faith and Finance.

2. The Stewardship Commission will establish a line item for next year for the ongoing Torre Fuerte support of \$6000.

Submitted by: Lonnie Bartel – Chair

FMC Stewardship Minutes

June 12, 2013

Attendance: Lonnie Bartel – Chair; Carol Miller – Treasurer; Cheryl Martin-Miller; Teri Roth; Matt Miller

Treasurer's Report

3. Carol reported on the current cash and spending as of the date of the meeting.
4. Carol brought the Commission up to date on the progress of the various other Commissions requests for funding for the upcoming year's Spending Plan.

New Business

1. The Commission spent the remainder of the meeting formulating the Spending Plan for next year.
2. Carol and the rest of the Commission will spend the next month getting the final numbers from the remaining Commissions and the MYF to finalize the plan at the next meeting.

Submitted by: Lonnie Bartel - Chair

Stewardship Commission

October 1, 2013

Present: Bob Smith, Michael Loss, John Spitzer, Carol Miller, Steve Ropp, Connie Swartzendruber, Cheryl Miller, Rick Eigsti

1. Reviewed the details of the Iowa Mennonite School Congregational Support Plan. Discussed the idea of moving the IMS line in the budget from the Congregational Mission area to the Community Mission section.
2. Discussed the need to develop priorities for the use of football parking proceeds. This will be addressed at a futures Stewardship Commission meeting.
3. We will provide quarterly budget vs. actual comparisons to the commission chairs throughout the year.
4. Quarterly we will provide the congregation a giving update.
5. Those working in the concession stand have indicated that the funds can be used for whatever is deemed necessary. We will leave them in the fund and evaluate possible uses throughout the year. It is nice to have a "savings" fund that can be used for special needs and or projects.
6. Discussed the idea of merging the Columbarium fund into the building fund or work at some fundraising for the \$11,072 deficit amount. This is an ongoing drag on the general fund. It may be easier to raise this as part of eliminating the debt on the building.
7. Goals for this year
 - a. Prevent any financial crisis.
 - b. Align what we are doing with the means to carry it out.
 - c. Explore ways that stewardship commission could help the congregation examine personal and corporate expressions of stewardship
 - d. Complete and audit of the recent fiscal year end.

Next meetings

November 19th, 6:15 at Church

January 7th, 6:15 at Church

Stewardship Commission Minutes

January 6, 2014

Present: Rick Eigsti, Carol Miller, Cheryl Miller, Steve Ropp, Bob Smith, John Spitzer (via telephone), and Connie Swartzendruber.

8. Treasurer Items

- a. Year to date giving: \$162,263 (2012-\$143,499 & 2011-\$143,102)
- b. Year to date disbursements: \$154,144
- c. General Fund balance: \$9,346.79
- d. The church received several unexpected, significant donations in December, which was large enough to generate a positive General Fund balance at year-end. This result was surprising as we usually have a negative balance in the General Fund at this point in the year. The Commission agreed to send an e-mail to the Congregation sharing this good news. Bob will forward a hard-copy to those members of the Congregation who do not have e-mail.
- e. Carol Miller reported that she is preparing contribution receipts (there are 220 receipts to compile) and W2s. She plans to distribute YTD budget reports to the Commissions on January 12.

9. Pastor Items. Bob Smith reported:

- a. MMN said they would continue to cover Alyssa Rodriguez's stipend and health care expenses through March 2014. Alyssa may have employment to cover her health care in April but that is uncertain, so we may need to revisit her situation before April.
- b. Sarah Kanagy Gingerich has signed the memorandum of understanding that outlines her duties and has started her employment with First Mennonite Church. As part of her duties, Sarah will be responsible for the football parking reservations and for the related bookkeeping; Brenda Litwiller will help her get started. We are still looking for someone to supervise the parking on game day.

10. The financial review of the last year will be completed by Rick Eigsti and Wendell Miller

11. MYF Football Parking. The Commission agreed that MYF Football Parking will be renamed FMC Football parking. With regard to the proceeds from the Football Parking, the Commission agreed to a final draft of priorities that Steve will review with the MYF Sponsors and Pastors.

12. Columbarium. Connie Swartzendruber reported that she had reviewed the history of how the columbarium budget was placed in the General Fund rather than in the Building Fund due to the bids exceeding the original estimates.

The Commission agreed to transfer the columbarium budget to the Building Fund. Revenue and expenses related to the columbarium niches will accrue to the Building Fund. Ad Cabinet will be asked to endorse this decision.

13. The Commission discussed encouraging members of the congregation to use electronic payments, such as ACH and online bill-paying software, to make their offerings to the church. The Commission generally agreed that electronic payments are efficient, but observed that many people want to put something in the offering as part of the service.

We will consider an approach that would provide electronic payers the opportunity to contribute to the offering during the service and would also expand the view of our sharing the gifts we receive. We will provide printed forms for people to fill in and place in the offering that would say something like "I have shared my gifts this week in the following ways" and would include a place to indicate an electronic payment to the church. This approach could help the congregation examine personal and corporate expressions of stewardship, including nonfinancial aspects, which is one of the Commission's goals for this year.

A discussion followed, which included these points:

- a. Everence has developed some materials that might be useful in this endeavor.
- b. We might include a discussion relating to the activity as part of Stewardship Sunday, or as part of “our own” Stewardship Sunday service. This service might serve as a replacement for the Commitment Sunday we have included in previous years.
- c. The form might also include a place for prayer for those who receive the gifts and/or include space for people to acknowledge the gifts they have received.
- d. We could also use the activity to promote gifts that empower the recipient of the gift.

The Commission agreed to develop this concept further, with an intention to initiate it at the beginning of March 2014. Steve agreed to contact the Worship Commission. Cheryl will contact Everence for possible resources and to take the lead in developing details needed for implementation. She will report her progress at the next Stewardship Commission meeting (on January 29). Bob Smith will discuss the proposal with the Mission Commission.

14. The Stewardship Commission set dates for the next 3 meetings:

Wednesday, January 29, 2014 – 6:15 PM at the church

Thursday, March 13, 2014 – 6:15 PM at the church

Wednesday, May 7, 2014 – 6:15 PM at the church

Recorded by John Spitzer

Stewardship Commission Minutes

January 29, 2014

Present: Carol Miller, Cheryl Martin Miller, Steve Ropp, Bob Smith, John Spitzer (via telephone), and Connie Swartzendruber.

1. Steve Ropp reported that the audit of the spending plan has been completed, and that no material discrepancies were found. The auditors commended Carol Miller for her work. The Commission agreed that we want to keep a file of the spending plan audits. Carol will check whether such a file already exists; if it does not one will be create.
2. The auditors recommended that Carol obtain a summary whenever purchases are made with cash. The Commission discussed how it would be preferable to use credit cards for purchases instead of cash. FMC credit cards will be obtained for staff.
3. The Commission reviewed the proposal from the January 7 meeting to provide a card for the congregation members to use as part of the offering. This card would allow electronic payers the opportunity to contribute to the offering during the service and would also invite everyone to share how they have given nonmonetary gifts. During the ensuing discussion, the following points were made:
 - a. Bob said he had discussed the proposal with the Mission Commission and that the proposal had been well received.
 - b. Cheryl Miller brought a prototype card. Steve Ropp suggested that Hannah Bartel could be a useful resource for adding artistic design to the card. The Commission agreed that it would be good to include the church logo as part of the design.

- c. The Commission discussed different ways to phrase the request for people to write how they have shared non-monetary gifts. We generally liked a wording that would begin with “Please share how you have expressed God’s generosity”
- d. Steve Ropp will speak to the congregation as part of the March 9 service, introducing the card and providing background information regarding its origin and purpose. The cards will be included in the bulletin for the March 9 service, and for the next few services as well. We will then evaluate whether to continue including the cards in the bulletins. Steve will also encourage the congregation to make monetary contributions electronically, and will announce that Carol will be available to answer questions after the March 16 service (giving people some time to think about the subject). It may be useful for Carol to be available for questions after the March 23 service as well.
- e. Later in the spring, we will compile the information from the cards and share the results with the congregation. Steve will confer with Mag about the availability of April 27 or May 25 for a Stewardship Sunday
- f. For the weeks beginning March 9 and ending on Stewardship Sunday we will include in each Sunday bulletin a short expression relating to stewardship. Connie Swartzendruber will put together some possible bulletin notes.

Next meetings:

Thursday, March 11, 2014 – 6:15 PM at the church

Wednesday, May 7, 2014 – 6:15 PM at the church

Recorded by John Spitzer

Stewardship Commission Minutes

March 11, 2014

Present: Rick Eigsti, Michael Loss, Cheryl Martin-Miller, Cheryl Miller, Steve Ropp, Bob Smith, and John Spitzer (via telephone).

- 1. Bob Smith reported two items relating to office equipment:
- 2. The budget for Home Missions includes \$1,000 for computer support. Sarah has met with a firm that will provide computer support for \$49/month, including \$9/month for backing up the computers.
- 3. We are replacing our black and white copier with a color copier. Strategic Print Solutions – has a color copier for \$214/month, we are currently spending \$177/month.
- 4. We discussed the response to the introduction of the green generosity cards. Bob reported that he had not heard any comments regarding the cards, neither negative nor positive, which he interpreted as “a good sign.” Sarah compiled a summary of the statements written on the cards. The summary for 2 weeks reflected 41 responses, ranging from “sharing food or meals” (6 responses) to “smiling at strangers” (1 response). The responses also included 7 notations of “I contribute electronically.” An additional 6 people signed up for donating via ACH since Sunday’s service.
 - a. The Commission agreed that it would be useful to share a few of the statements from the “Sharing God’s Generosity” cards with the congregation. We will work with Worship Commission to determine the best way to do this. There will be an expanded Stewardship section in the bulletin each week highlighting the responses.
- 5. The Commission discussed plans for Stewardship Sunday. We selected May 25 as the preferred date. Several names were discussed as individuals that maybe willing to provide the sermon on Stewardship Sunday.
- 6. Bob reported that Alyssa is now employed, with health insurance, so the \$2,127 remaining in the budget for her support can now be redirected. Bob will talk with Mission Commission in consultation with Alyssa’s support team to determine how best to direct those funds.

Next meeting: **Wednesday, May 7, 2014 – 6:15 PM at the church**

Recorded by John Spitzer

Stewardship Commission Minutes

June 11, 2014

Present: Rick Eigsti, Michael Loss, Cheryl Martin-Miller, Steve Ropp, Bob Smith, John Spitzer, and Connie Swartzendruber.

1. Carol reported that the Mennonite Women has been paying for sewing supplies from their own resources, and has asked if funds could be made available from the Twila Wenger Memorial Fund that purpose. The Commission agreed to transfer \$400 from the memorial fund to Mennonite Women. This amount represents about one-third of the income that has accrued to the memorial fund this fiscal year.
2. The Commission agreed to transfer \$10,000 from the IMS Tuition fund at Everence to the general fund for IMS tuition.
3. Carol reported that the \$790 has been given in memorials this year; the Commission considered whether to transfer this \$790 to the Operating Fund. It was decided to wait until we are closer to the end of the fiscal year before we make that decision.
4. The Commission agreed to transfer \$14,080 from the FMC Football Parking Fund to the General Fund. (\$7,040 for General Fund Tithe-10%of gross receipts and \$7,040 for Community Missions)
5. Carol reported that FMC has received \$9,600 for reserved football parking. This amount is less than we had received last year at this time, due to starting the reservation process later this year. Bob Smith indicated that there is considerable demand for the reserved parking.
6. Carol reported the Trustee Commission is considering replacing a significant amount of the carpet and tile. Stewardship would recommend a fundraising effort be done, outside of the general fund to cover the cost of this project. (estimate was \$78,000 for removal and installation of all carpet and bathroom tile) The General Fund has 2 line items, Building Maintenance and Capital Improvements that currently have approximately \$20,000 available. We will work with the Trustee Commission to determine how best to proceed.
7. Bob Smith reported that we will likely need about \$1,000 to cover costs of sponsoring MCC International Visitor Exchange Program during the last 2 months of FY 2014-2015. The draft budget already includes \$960 for this purpose.

Next meeting: To Be Determined

Recorded by John Spitzer

Stewardship Commission Meeting

August 14, 2014

Present: Connie Swartzendruber, Carol Miller, Michael Loss, Cheryl Martin Miller, Bob Smith, Steve Ropp, Rick Eigsti

1. The committee reviewed the current year spending plan. Steve and Carol estimated that \$8,678 was needed each Sunday (three Sundays remaining) to meet the Spending Plan. The Parking Fund will be zeroed out and transferred to the general fund, creating more of a cushion.
2. The MMN – Quito, Alyssa R fund currently has a balance of \$1,967.68. Steve will visit with Cindy Schrock to find out what the support group has planned for these funds.
3. Mutual Aid Fund, Steve will visit with the elders about future plans with the negative balance.
4. The student scholarships will be paid to the colleges soon.
5. Columbarium fund will be merged into the Building Fund in December.

6. 2014-2015 Spending Plan. The MCC International Visitor Exchange and the Wellness Committee are two new line items. Churches partnering with Torre Fuerte will be meeting to plan for the future. Carol will receive the actual costs for the IMS line in September.
7. It was noted that Carol will disburse mission checks this week.
8. Pastor Salary, Steve will review the information for accuracy.
9. Secretary salary information will be reviewed by Steve.
10. The church will need to re-carpet a significant amount of the common areas and the education classrooms. We would prefer to do separate fund raising and not include the cost in the Spending Plan.
11. MYF Spending Plan was reviewed added to the financial summary.
12. Hobert Yoder Scholarship Fund. Fifty thousand dollars has been given for the purpose of increasing the amount that FMC provides to students attending Mennonite Colleges and Universities. Funds are to be used for scholarships and not retained as an endowment. After reviewing a projection it was decided that each student would receive an additional \$1,000/year for up to 4 years (8 semesters). The existing FMC Scholarship fund balance is probably large enough to support raising the regular scholarship amount. At the next Stewardship Commission meeting we will discuss the possibility of creating a new committee with the purpose of overseeing all scholarship efforts. Steve will review our recommendations with Lois.

Minutes submitted by Rick Eigsti

Next meeting- September 17th, 6:15

**Stewardship Commission Meeting
September 17, 2014**

Present: Fred Gingerich, Michael Loss, Cheryl Martin-Miller, Carol Miller, Steve Ropp, Bob Smith, John Spitzer, and Connie Swartzendruber.

1. We reviewed the financial results from FY 2013-2014. Last year, the beginning balance in the general fund was \$1,228. Excluding MYF, our spending budget for FY 2012-2014 was \$480,239; the actual expenditures were \$451,603. Income to the general fund was \$463,647. The ending balance was \$13,271.
2. We reviewed the proposed spending plan for FY 2014-2015. Excluding MYF, the proposed spending plan for FY 2014-2015 is \$484,016 which represents a \$3,777 increase over the spending plan for the previous year and a \$32,412 increase over the actual expenditures.
3. We discussed various ways to fund the purchase and installation of the new carpet, which is estimated to cost between \$31 thousand and \$40 thousand. We agreed to use \$12 thousand from the beginning general fund balance, \$9 thousand from the capital improvements budget, \$2,300 from the memorials fund, and \$2 thousand from concessions revenue to help meet these expenses. These components total \$25,300 which leaves \$6 – 15 thousand to be provided from special fund raising during the coming year.
4. We agreed to continue the 4 goals for the Stewardship Commission from last year:
 - a. Prevent any financial crises.
 - b. Align what we are doing at FMC with the means to carry it out.
 - c. Explore ways that the Stewardship Commission can help the congregation examine personal and corporate expressions of stewardship.
 - d. Complete an audit of the previous fiscal year.
 - i. We added a 5th and 6th goal for FY 2014-2015:
 - e. Encourage the congregation to make their donations by using electronic payments.
 - f. Explore the merits of establishing a student scholarship committee, which would be separate from the Stewardship Commission.

5. Steve will contact Rick Eigsti to develop a plan for conducting the audit (goal d). With regard to goal e (electronic payments), it was suggested that information be posted on the FMC website to encourage electronic payments and to explain how to set up electronic payments to the church.
6. We agreed to include the following agenda items for our next meeting:
7. Discuss how to encourage electronic payments
8. Discuss how we can help the congregation examine personal and corporate expressions of stewardship
9. Time permitting, discuss setting up a separate student scholarship committee.

Next meeting: **Thursday, November 13 at 6:15 PM in the church**

Recorded by John Spitzer

Stewardship Commission Minutes – April 1, 2015

Present: Fred Gingerich, Michael Loss, Cheryl Martin-Miller, Carol Miller, Steve Ropp, John Spitzer (via telephone), and Connie Swartzendruber.

1. We reviewed the financial results through March 31, 2015. Since the beginning of the fiscal year in September 2014, the operating fund has received \$270,675 (income and transfers) and disbursed \$313,051, leaving a deficit of \$29,104. We have been providing the congregation a quarterly graph of revenues and disbursements; we will do this monthly for the remainder of the year.
2. We need to raise \$15 thousand for the purchase and installation of the carpet, which has been paid out of the general fund. We will have a special offering to raise these funds.
3. We discussed different ways to handle funds directed towards the support of the Max Villatoro family. Fred Gingerich will discuss this matter with the elders to identify the approach we will use.
4. We reviewed the timetable for establishing next year's budget. Worksheets will be sent to the commission chairs in May, to be returned by June 30. The Stewardship Commission will develop the budget recommendation for next year by July 31.
5. We discussed the idea of setting up a scholarship committee. Cheryl Martin-Miller and Connie Swartzendruber will lead a discussion on this topic at our next meeting on May 6.

Next meeting: **Wednesday, May 6, 2015 at 6 PM in the church**

Recorded by John Spitzer

Stewardship Commission Minutes – August 18, 2015

Present: Julia Bartel, Fred Gingerich, Dawn Krabill, Michael Loss, Cheryl Martin-Miller, Carol Miller, Steve Ropp, Terri Roth, John Spitzer, and Connie Swartzendruber.

1. We reviewed the financial results for September 1, 2014 through July 31, 2015. Steve had projected the expenses for the remainder of the fiscal year to be \$14,628. On that basis, we need offerings to average \$7,500 for each of the two remaining Sundays in August in order to end the year with a zero balance in the General Fund. The Commission agreed that a zero balance is a reasonable target, since we have usually ended the year with a balance that is close to zero.
2. The Commission reviewed the draft budget for FY 2015-2016. We agreed to add a line for search committee expenses, with a budget of \$2,500.
3. Cheryl discussed a draft proposal to establish a Scholarship Committee. The Commission agreed to several minor changes. Cheryl will e-mail a revised proposal to Steve for him to submit to Ad Cab.

4. The Commission discussed a proposal from Isaac Schrock for the church to set up and administer a fund for donations to finance a performance of "Listening for Grace," a play by Ted Swartz and Company. The Elders had approved the proposal on August 12. The Stewardship Commission approved the proposal.

Next meeting: **Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at 6 PM in the church**

Recorded by John Spitzer

Stewardship Commission Minutes – October 6, 2015

Present: Dawn Krabill, Carol Miller, Steve Ropp, Terri Roth, and John Spitzer.

1. We reviewed fund balances and income received during September. General Fund giving has been \$26,022 compared with \$30,287 for last year. Year to date expenses have been \$36,632.
2. We agreed to conduct an audit of the financial statements for FY 2013-2014. The audit will be completed this year.
3. We identified 5 goals for FY 2015-2016:
 - a. Meet our spending plan goal during this year of transition.
 - b. Explore ways Stewardship Commission can help the congregation examine personal and corporate expressions of stewardship
 - c. Complete an audit of the financial statements for FY 2014-2015
 - d. Encourage more to make use of electronic giving.
 - e. Establish a student scholarship committee

Next meeting: **Thursday, December 10, 2015 at 6 PM in the church**

Recorded by John Spitzer

Stewardship Commission Minutes – December 14, 2015

Present: Julie Bartel, Fred Gingerich, Dawn Krabill, Steve Ropp, and John Spitzer.

Absent: Carol Miller and Teri Roth

1. We reviewed fund balances and income received during October and November. 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.

The Church has not yet made any payments to MCC for the International Visitor Exchange Program, although we understand that MCC has made payments for the support of the program. Carol will work with Tim Krabill to determine the amount and timing of our payments to MCC.

The Community Compassion Fund will need additional funds in February to meet a commitment. We will include a notice in the bulletin with this information.

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. We reviewed our goals for FY 2015-2016:
 - a. During this year of transition the primary focus will be to meet our spending plan.

- b. We will defer our plans to explore ways Stewardship Commission can help the congregation examine personal and corporate expressions of stewardship.
 - c. Complete an audit of the financial statements for FY 2014-2015. Steve will talk with Rick Eigsti about conducting the audit.
 - d. Encourage more people to make use of electronic giving.
 - e. Establish a student scholarship committee.
4. Discussion items for our next meeting:
- a. Encourage more people to make use of electronic giving.
 - b. Establish a student scholarship committee.

Next meeting: Monday, February 22, 2016 at 6 PM in the church

Recorded by John Spitzer

Stewardship Commission Minutes – May 3, 2016

Present: Julie Bartel, Fred Gingerich, Carol Miller, Steve Ropp, Terri Roth, and John Spitzer.

1. Treasurer's Report. We reviewed fund balances and income received through April 2016. Contributions are running below the pace of last year, but expenditures are also running below plan. We received \$38 thousand in April. If contributions continue at that pace, we will meet our commitments for the year.

We discussed several line items in the report. Steve will follow up with Jim Brenneman regarding continued support for Iglesia Zoar. Carol will review the status of Home Missions expenditures projected for the remainder of the year.

2. Budget Calendar. Carol will distribute worksheets in May and will ask for them to be returned by the end of June. The first Stewardship budget meeting will be Tuesday, July 5 and the next meeting will be Tuesday, August 16.

Next meeting: **Tuesday, July 5, 2016 at 6 PM in the church**

Recorded by John Spitzer

Stewardship Commission Minutes – July 5, 2016

Present: Julie Bartel, Dawn Krabill, Carol Miller, Steve Ropp, Terri Roth, and John Spitzer.

1. Treasurer's Report. We reviewed the expenses through June 2016 and estimated the expenses to be paid in July and August (\$58,000) – our projected total expenses for fiscal year 2015-2016 of \$432,000. We estimate that we will need to receive \$83 thousand in July and August in order to cover the expenses for the year. Subsequent to the meeting, Carol reported that the July 3 offering was \$17,100, so we need \$66 thousand for the remaining 8 Sundays, an average of \$8,250 each Sunday.
2. Budget Implications for Hiring Pastor Max Villatoro. The hiring would most likely not occur during the coming fiscal year, so it would not impact the FY 2016-2017 budget. The impact would occur in FY 2017-2018 at the earliest.

The Commission estimated that hiring Max, when it occurs, would increase annual expenditures by about \$30 thousand. For perspective, actual annual spending for the church was \$471 thousand last year, and will be about \$432 thousand this year. The draft budget for next year is \$453 thousand. After making adjustments for the transition to new pastors, 1 full time and an additional ½ time, and adding a half time for Pastor Max, assuming all other line items remain constant, the budget would increase to \$491 thousand.

The Commission identified 5 options to accommodate such an increase, and put them into a rank order:

- a. Ask the congregation to increase giving.
 - i. 14-15 Actual Spending=\$471,000
 1. For every dollar given in 14-15 an additional 4 cents is needed.
 2. If \$1,000 was given, then \$1,040 is needed
 - ii. 15-16 Estimated Spending=\$433,000
 1. For every dollar given in 15-16 (current year) an additional 14 cents is needed.
 2. If \$1,000 was given, then \$1,140 is needed.
 - iii. The Commission noted that it is possible that a smaller number of Congregation members might take it upon themselves to fund the bulk of the increase.
- b. Increase the fees for football parking. It was noted that we have not increased our parking fees in several years, and it is possible that we could raise fees without a significant impact on the demand for our parking. In the last 4 years the price of season football tickets has increased by 7% for new ticketholders, and by 4% for returning ticketholders.
- c. Try to reduce other areas of the budget. For example, we might take the capital improvements expense out of the budget, and rely on special offerings for any capital improvements we need. Reduce the number of FTEs,
- d. Use the funds from the Orpha Kempf estate. The fund balance from the estate is \$27,387. The Commission felt that this option should only be done as a last resort.

Steve will present these options to the Congregation at the July 17 meeting.

Next meeting: **Tuesday, August 16, 2016 at 6 PM in the church**

Recorded by John Spitzer

Stewardship Commission Minutes – August 16, 2016

Present: Julie Bartel, Dawn Krabill, Carol Miller, Steve Ropp, John Spitzer, Fred Gingerich and Jared Wenger.

1. We welcomed Jared Wenger to the Stewardship Commission and thanked John for the many years he has served on the commission.
2. Treasurer's Report. We reviewed the contributions through August 14 and the projected expenses through the end of August. We estimated that about \$15,000 will be needed with two Sundays remaining to meet the Spending Plan. Steve will communicate this to the Congregation via e-mail.
3. We reviewed the proposed spending plan for FY 2016-2017. The spending for the entire year is estimated to be \$423,295. For comparison, we project that spending for FY 2015-2016 will total \$427,409. Steve will present this proposed spending plan to Ad Cabinet for approval at their August 17 meeting. Final approval would be voted on by the congregation at the Fall Congregational Meeting.
4. We reviewed a projection for the Student Scholarship Fund over the next 10 years. We currently contribute \$1,500 to students who attend Mennonite colleges (An additional \$1,000/yr. is given from the

Hobert Yoder Scholarship Fund. The projection was based on an estimate of the number of students who will receive support each year, and assumed that the share of football parking revenues allocated to the Scholarship Fund will be about \$25 thousand per year. Using these assumptions, in 10 years the balance in the fund is projected to increase from its current level of \$107,000 to \$185,000.

The Commission agreed to recommend that the scholarship grant be increased from \$1,500 to \$3,000/yr. for years 2, 3 and 4, effective the 2017-2018 school year. The scholarship grant for the first year will remain at 20% of the students costs less any scholarships or grants. With this increase, the fund balance is projected to remain close to its current level. Steve will present this recommendation to Ad Cabinet at their August 17 meeting.

Next Meeting: 6 PM Tuesday, October 18 at the Church.

Recorded by John Spitzer