

Leadership Group Minutes
November 1, 2022 @ 7:00pm at AMC

Present: Randy Roth (chair), Leon Bauman, Cheryl Shreiner, Sara Morris, Eric Yordy, Ben Good-Elliott, Stephen Lowe, Lora Nafziger, Anna Yoder Schlabach, Karl Shelly, Scott Coulter
Excused: Sandy Fribley (sick)

1. Opening: Randy

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Randy read 1 Thess 5:26. The holy kiss breaks down social divisions in the early church

2. October 4, 2022 LG meeting minutes – highlights and approval - approved by consensus

3. October 23, 2022 Congregational meeting minutes - approval - approved with edits for visual clarity in Q&A sections

Noted that sometimes a summary is more helpful than a Q&A format; a Q&A format should be visually clear and make it clear who is giving answers. Appreciation that the minute-taker captured the discussion well.

Discussion/Action

4. GCMS Sponsorship update

The ad hoc group is: Scott Coulter, Anne Horst Hanby, Caleb Morris, Larry Gautsche, Arden Shank, Sandy Fribley. The group met on Oct 23 and will meet again Nov 13. Plan to have a proposal for the December congregational meeting. LG encourages that the next presentation begin with why AMC would want to do this.

5. Repair Network – follow up from the last Cong. Mtg.

Stephen made us aware of opportunities to hear Sarah Augustine in Goshen/Elkhart area.

6. State of the Congregation – assign Elder writers

Eric and Sandy have volunteered. Office will provide statistical information in January. The report should be ready for the February 2023 LG meeting.

7. Next Congregational Meeting Planning

We will meet at 7pm on Sun Nov 20 on Zoom, and plan to meet during second hour in person on Dec 18th.

(We discussed meeting sometime in MP North on Sunday evening with a Zoom option (Faith would be in the kitchen and south part of the MP space).

Agenda for Nov 20:

- GCMS update (info, with proposal 1st reading in December)

- Repair Network proposal (2nd reading)

- Elder selection process change (1st reading)

8. Review proposed Elder Selection Process changes

Karl summarized reasons for changing the elder selection process. Commonly the reps are faced with a hard choice between qualified candidates. Karl explained the changes the proposal would bring to the process. We discussed the importance of confidentiality re: whose names go into the lot.

9. (8:30 PM) Aspirational Budget – Larry Gautsche

Larry Gautsche joined us at 8:20 pm. He presented the aspirational budget from Finance Committee.

Pledge Letter: clarify “Bethany” is “Bethany Christian Schools”. Make it specific how much more each household/giving unit should give (average 12% increase). Karl Shelly will help revise the pledge letter to be more of a call and not merely a description.

10. Accessibility Audit

Assembly’s last accessibility audit happened when Lora Nafziger was a seminary student (she led it for a class project). It was helpful and several changes were adopted. Affirmation that it is time to do another audit. Scott Coulter and Ben Good-Elliott volunteered to work at this. We also discussed asking Gayle Gerber Koontz, Sandy Fribley, Dave Powell, and for other volunteers. There is also a CAN form for households, which we could turn into a digital form for the congregation. Scott will take point on moving forward with this project.

Information/Reporting

11. Report from Retreat Committee (Jenna Martin)

About 160 attended retreat. Total cost was \$13,500. (\$6,300 was budgeted. \$5,900 more was pledged & \$2,300 was actually donated and marked for retreat.) We hope to improve communication with camp & registrants next year. Very little formal feedback received from registrants; in general, we heard that "retreat seems to be going well."

- *We encourage Retreat to consider changing the weekend in 2023 because it will coincide with homecoming again, a neighboring weekend is available.*

12. MYF Sponsors report (Erich Miller)

- 26 students participated in MYF this year, with typical attendance of 3-12 in Sunday school and drop-ins. Major themes were faith formation and service. Sponsors hosted more activities this year since some MYFers weren't comfortable hosting drop-ins due to the pandemic. We see the 2022-2023 year as a rebuilding year for MYF.

13. Offerings report (Dancy Hirshler)

- As of 10/31/22, offerings were ahead of expenses, and both offerings and expenses were close to what is typical at the end of the October (about 70% of the spending plan).
- The Everence mortgage principal balance is \$277,725.

14. Small Group Shuffle update (Karl Shelly)

- The shuffle was extra-large this year, with 59 people in the mix, and more than a third of them new to Assembly small groups. At this point, 40 people have joined a small group, and four new groups have formed (for a total now of 25). Most of the others have received at least one invitation to a small group and will likely join a group soon. But two households have not received any invitations.

15. CDC Sacred Listening Report

- CDC Sacred Listening from 2nd hour on Sept 25, 2022. The summary from the listeners is in the LG Packet.
- *We discussed what to do with this report. We'd like to find out from the CDC Board what the conference plans on doing with the information at the end of the listening process. It was suggested that some quotes from the listening report could be used in the AMC State of the Congregation Report.*

15. Elders Check In

16. Pastors' Reporting

17. Prayer for the Congregation (Lora)

Meeting adjourned at 9:54pm

Next Congregational Meeting: Sunday, November 20, 2022

Next Leadership Group Meeting: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 7pm

Future Agenda

Scheduling: Dec 2022 Congregational Meeting - 7-8pm or 2nd hour?

Scheduling: April 4, 2023 falls on GCS Spring Break

GCMS Sponsorship – ongoing

Elder Selection Process (Nov Cong Mtg)

Recommendations from Pastor-Congregation Review:

- Leadership Group Review (Role & Structure)
- Begin Planning for 50th Anniversary (early 2024)
- Vision for the next 3-5 years
- Standing Committees for Karl & Scott?

Who Are We Now Survey results (more followup?)

Congregational Meetings Format / Decision Making at Assembly

Hospitality Goal?

Capital Campaign II

State of the Congregation Report 2022 (assign in Nov; complete in January)

Accessibility Audit (ongoing)