Leadership Group Draft Minutes
Assembly Mennonite Church
February 4, 2025 @ 7:00pm on Zoom

Present: Anna YS, Trevor D, Sara M (chair), Tom K, Moriah H, Karl S, Anna M, Scott C
Not present: Cheryl S, John B

Opening

1. Opening- Sara
    a. Check-in: How are you doing?!

2. January 7, 2025 Leadership Group Minutes Approved
    a. Minutes were approved.
3. January 19, 2025 Congregational Meeting Minutes Approved
    a. Minutes were approved.

4. Items Tabled For Later Follow Up
After checking in, Sara noted that we would follow up by email about scheduling Spring retreat. We will also follow up later about MCUSA Delegates.

5. Student Aid Conversation & February 16 Congregational Meeting
The Student Aid Advisory group is meeting this Sunday. The group is not quite ready for a first reading proposal; they want to present three options to the congregation and get more feedback.

We discussed plans for a February congregational meeting including the Student Aid conversation.

Idea fragment: in addition to having participants put stickers on the option they like best, that they also have the opportunity to make suggestions for improvement on that model (perhaps with post-it notes).

We think a Sunday evening 7pm meeting is better than a second hour meeting for this topic so we do not exclude Sunday school volunteers.

6. ICAP Questionnaire
Report to the congregation about affirmations for this as part of the congregational meeting.

7. Pastors gave a brief report on a Safe Church issue

Pastors Reporting

Karl and Moriah's weekly average work hours both exceeded their FTE in January. A pastoral care issue and the ICAP questionnaire pushed Karl's hours up. Moriah's hours were up this month because of two youth retreats. The first year in her role is also labor intensive. Neither of them is asking to take away responsibilities.

We continue to pay Bethany Swope hourly as needed for some Christian Formation work. That will likely phase out in the coming month.

There will likely be follow up by email about Admin Staff Job Descriptions.

Meeting adjourned at 8pm.

Information/Reporting

8. Finance Reports from Treasurer. We have a cash surplus from 2024, and we have received the Finance Committee's recommendations on what to do with the surplus.
9. Small Group Steering Committee Update
    a. We have been working hard at the mini shuffle/winter welcome. We are all on a steep learning curve but seem to be working well together as a committee. We are sharing leadership of our times together so we don't have a set chair position at this point.
    b. 1 new group is forming. 2 existing groups have merged into 1. About 25-35 adults are involved in the shuffle depending on how you count them.
10. Education Support Committee Update
    a. The Student Aid Advisory Group has been working with the feedback they received in the January Congregational Meeting. They have identified three possible interim models based on that feedback and are putting together a written proposal for each model. One model is a Special Fund focused on K-12 Mennonite Education, another model is a Special Fund focused on K-College Mennonite Education, and the third model is a Special Fund focused on Supporting both Public and Mennonite Education. In a February Congregational Meeting the group would be sharing the rationale and mechanism for each model, seeking feedback from the congregation.
11. 2024 State of the Congregation 1st Draft
12. Pastors' Reporting

Closing

13. Prayer for the Congregation- Karl