Leadership Group Minutes
Assembly Mennonite Church
May 6, 2025 @ 7:00pm

Present: Sara Morris (chair), Scott Coulter, Trevor Daugherty, Tom Kauffman, Anna Yoder Schlabach, Moriah Hurst, Ben Sywulka, John Blosser, Karl Shelly, Cheryl Shreiner, Anna McVay, Lynn Diener (taking minutes)

Opening

1. Welcome Lynn Diener - new Office Administrator
2. Trevor read a poem by Carol Penner about spring
3. April 1, 2025 Leadership Group Minutes - Sara
    a. **Minutes were approved with corrections**
4. April 22, 2025 Congregational Meeting Minutes - Sara
    a. Minutes were approved with corrections

Discussion/Action

5. Request from Goshen Montessori Preschool re: changes to cost-sharing for next school year

The LG strongly supports the work and mission of GMP, but wants to be mindful of having congregational support and going through the process of submitting a proposal to the Financial Committee. Possible proposals might include giving some support this fiscal year (enough to cover a tuition scholarship) and then budgeting for a full year of support in the following fiscal year, or donating a sum annually that would match the rental cost GMP currently pays which would keep value attached to the gift AMC offers through the use of its space. There is sympathy for GMP needing to finalize budgeting plans now, but AMC will need to let the process run through the Financial Committee before any agreement is made.

LG will offer the Financial Committee a few proposals and let them follow up with the proposals.

6. Solar Panel Expansion Project Proposal
    a. Member Loan Lenders have approved using part of Capital Campaign Fund to finance solar panel project, and part of it to repay member loans. Finance Committee will decide which loans to prioritize paying off.
    b. How much money from Capital Campaign Surplus is available as “seed” money for Solar Expansion Project? How much do we need to raise? (Maynard & Glenn were going to apply for a grant as well). How are we talking with the congregation about this?

Tabled until more information comes (probably the fall)

7. Leader Selection Slate - Scott
    a. LG is responsible for Leader Selection Committee nominations & for Treasurer
        i. Scott plans to ask Adam Graber Roth to serve on Leader Selection Committee; he had said yes to serving this year, before they went to Tanzania to lead SST.
        ii. Any help / suggestions re: finding a Treasurer to succeed Dancy would be welcome!
    b. Safe Church Committee has been added to the slate (still need more members).
        - There is urgency around this as the meeting would be in two weeks (May 16-17). Help finding folks for this committee, even on a short-term basis, is welcome.
        - Scott and Sara will collaborate on who might be good to ask.
        - Sending invite to SafeChurch training to those who initially declined with an invitation to consider it later

8. **Next Congregational Meeting: May 18, 7pm**
    a. Second Reading: Surplus Proposal
    b. Second Reading: Student Aid Proposal
    c. Affirmation of Leader Selection Slate
9. Schedule August LG Orientation (see email and matrix)
10. **Next LG meeting** will be as-needed in June, and possibly conducted via email.

Information/Reporting

11. 2024 State of Congregation Report - *this has been posted to the website, with statistics added.*
12. Financial Report (from April 22 Cong Meeting)
13. Info for Saturday's Retreat - Tom & Trevor - 3pm, Trevor's house
14. Pastors' Reporting

Closing

15. Prayer for the Congregation - Scott

Executive Session

Next Congregational Meeting: Sunday May 18, 7pm @ Meetinghouse

LG Retreat: Saturday May 10, 3-7pm @ *location-Trevor's House*
Next LG Meeting: *as needed, possibly via email*

Future Agenda

-Leadership Group Self-Evaluation (follow up from PCR Recommendations)
-Goals from Apr 23 LG Retreat: (1.Fostering internal community, 2. Involving the congregation in decision making, 3.Supporting the outside community)
-Recommendations from Pastor-Congregation Review:
    *Vision for the next 3-5 years
    *Review LG role and structure - more needs to be done here, in terms of LG self-evaluation
-Review Hospitality Goals
-School Support
-LGBTQ+ Reparations
-Dismantling Patriarchy (ongoing work, follow up from 2022 Oct retreat)
-Impacts/Influences of COVID
-Fostering Emotional Connection
-Welcome Statement

Minutes submitted by Lynn Diener. 5/14/25