



Congregational Meeting

*Sunday evening
March 18, 6:30 p.m.*

Follow up from January 21 Congregational Meeting

Dialogue and Deliberation:

Full time or half time for associate pastor job

As members of council, we appreciate the open discussion of all views at the Jan. 21, 2007 congregational meeting in relation to moving the Associate Pastor position from half to full time. Additional information was requested concerning current staff workload and finances along with a desire expressed for stewardship education to be more integrated into our congregation.

For a fuller description of the discussion, read the congregational minutes on the CMCL website or ask the office for a paper copy. Council will continue to process your feedback at our upcoming meetings after a time of overall vision work in March. Thank you for your feedback.

Upcoming Christian Education Options

March 11–June 3

Anabaptist Theology/History

What was it, what is it, and what could it be. Speakers will provide instruction on the historical, current/future aspects of where Anabaptists fit in, and global aspects of Anabaptism. This is a class for everyone and covers a wide range with interesting and knowledgeable speakers.

Facilitators: Jan Siemens and Urbane Peachey

Location: Sanctuary

March 11–April 15.

Finding Life in Music

This is your time to listen to and share with others music or writings that have personal significance to you. We may hear music or readings of a particular culture, of our childhood, or that which gives us enjoyment. If you would like to provide us with a taste of what moves you contact Sylvia with interests and/or availability.

Facilitator: Sylvia Yoder

Location: Sattler room (behind piano)

Council will bring two proposals to Congregation on March 18

Proposal 1—Community Mennonite Church will become a Jubilee Congregation:

- The Justice and Spirituality (JAS) Committee is recommending that CMCL become a Jubilee Congregation, committing our support to the Jubilee USA Network, part of a worldwide movement of concerned citizens which advocates for the cancellation of international debts for impoverished countries.

Proposal 2—Our 1997 Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster Congregational Structure document relating to composition of Congregational Council, be amended so that the relevant section shall read:

2. Members

a. Responsibilities

Members of Council provide leadership in the important process of shaping the vision of CMCL as a corporate body in ways that facilitate the presence and experience of God in our personal lives and our ministry to the community and world at large.

Members of Council represent the diversity of the congregation and are committed to an open transparent process where the congregation is given opportunity for input and kept informed of directions and decisions.

b. Qualifications

Each Council member:

- is a member of CMCL.
- is an active participant in the life of the Congregation so that Council is reflective of the diversity of CMCL
- is able to articulate opinions and interests of other CMCLers through his or her involvement in many facets of congregational life, but is also able to consider all points of view represented on Council, with a goal of effectively and efficiently reaching harmonious decisions.
- has served a minimum of one complete term in a program capacity (e.g. teacher, Venture Club leader, conference representative) or on a CMCL committee.

c. Composition and Selection

The Council consists of no more than nine members appointed by affirmation at a congregational meeting upon nomination by a nominating committee of the Council, plus the Council Chair and the Chair-Elect. The nominating committee shall include two members of the congregation who are not members of Council.

Members commit to a three-year term of service on the Council. Terms are staggered so that approximately one third of Council members are new each year.

Our 1997 Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster Congregational Structure document be further amended to conform to this change.

Background Information

Jubilee Church and Jubilee USA

The Justice and Spirituality (JAS) Committee is recommending that CMCL become a Jubilee Congregation, committing our support to the Jubilee USA Network, part of a worldwide movement of concerned citizens which advocates for the cancellation of international debts for impoverished countries.

Jubilee USA envisions a world in which external debt no longer impoverishes nations and peoples by diverting resources from health, education and environment to pay rich countries and financial institutions, in which families and communities have a voice in economic policies and decisions that affect their lives, and in which right relationships are restored between nations.

- Jubilee takes its mandate from Deuteronomy 15: 1, 14-15 "Every seventh year you shall grant a remission of debts. Remember, you were a slave in the land of Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you; for this reason I lay this command upon you today."
- "The jubilee is a recognition that, left to its normal and uninterrupted course, power becomes more and more concentrated in a few hands, that without intervention every society slides into injustice . Restoration requires to turn against this course of history (Micah 7; Nehemiah 5). The wholeness of people, and of a people, requires the . . . periodic breaking down of the ordinary course of events."—*World Council of Churches 8th Assembly*

What does Jubilee USA want of congregations?

- We want to galvanize the human and financial resources of congregations of all sizes and traditions with a desire to do more for the world's poor. Our hope is that Jubilee Congregations will be a practical way that communities can get involved in global justice and advocacy in solidarity with sister communities in the developing world.

What will our commitment look like?

- Contribute one dollar per member (or more) per year to Jubilee USA.
- Send one fax, e-mail or phone call per member to elected officials each year on the issue of debt cancellation.
- Pray for Jubilee, an end to the economic bondage of debt and global injustice.
- Make the issue of debt cancellation visible in the congregation and local community.

JAS Committee hopes that on March 18 CMCL will become the second (second!) Mennonite Church in the USA to support Jubilee USA. (Please note that MCC has been a supporting organization for years and speaks highly of Jubilee's work.)

Background Information

Selection of Council members

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