



buzz

May 16 Congregational Meeting Report

Ninety people gathered in the WMC fellowship hall Sunday evening, May 15, for a congregational business meeting. Following an opening meditation by Andrew Hartzler, Pastor Neil Amstutz shared a power point of many highlights of the past fiscal year, noting that we gave a total of over \$915,000 through budgeted and designated giving. This includes the support of 15 Goshen community organizations, 43 students in Mennonite schools with \$255,000, \$20,000 for Benin Bible Institute, over \$8,000 for the Journey Church plant, and over \$25,000 for the Ross-Richer ministry in Ecuador. Waterford is a generous congregation.

Neil also highlighted the three service/learning trips WMC sponsored to Benin, Honduras, and Mashulaville, MS, during the year, as well as the ordination of Rod Hollinger-Janzen, licensing of Mike Yordy for church planting, and transition of Lyle Miller after eight years of ministry with WMC. During the following table discussions, attenders affirmed the high involvement of WMC in local and global ministries, as well as continued support for Mennonite Education.

Ken Otto was affirmed as Lay Leader for the Gifts Discernment Ministry Team through August 2018 and Vyron Schmidt as Congregational Chair through August 2017. Attendees also suggested several names as possible members to fill a vacant seat on the Ministry Leadership Council.

Jan Oostland reported that the loan has been approved for our Solar Panel project and that installation will be in July or August, depending on the lead time needed for the panels.

Andrew Hartzler, chair of Pastor of Family Life search committee, reported that five candidates applied for the position and now the search has been narrowed to two. The committee will Skype with the candidates soon and decide on one to present to Ministry Leadership Council and then to the congregation for vote. They hope to have the new person in place by September 1 of this year.

Tom Yoder, WMC treasurer, presented the final financial update for the fiscal year concluded on April 30. He reported that total giving to the Operating and Mennonite Education budgets was \$791,108 with expenses equaling that amount. However, the Mennonite Education fund distributed \$22,367 more than budgeted, so to balance the budget we distributed \$101,690 to External Ministries instead of the \$125,815 budgeted. Tom also noted that an additional \$22,263 was given outside our External Ministries budget to the Ross-Richer ministry in Ecuador.

Table groups spent some time discussing the recommended \$791,631 budget for 2016/17; questions included what would be done if we are short again this year, and what would we do if there was a surplus. There was some support for increasing the budget but it was adopted as recommended (84 in favor, 3 no, and 3 abstentions). Tom reported that Lyle has concluded his role as a financial consultant for WMC and expressed appreciation for his work; Mel Claassen is now serving as interim business manager for the church.

Wilmer Hollinger concluded the meeting with prayer shortly before 9 p.m.

—Jason Herrmann, secretary



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- JD Smucker
Worship Coordinator

Facilities Ministry

- Jan Oostland
Facilities Manager
- Courtney Shetler
Custodian
- Irma Perez
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Pastoral Ministry

- Neil Amstutz
Pastoral Team Leader
- Velma Swartz
Pastor of Senior Ministries
- Cindy Voth
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The *Waterford Buzz* is normally published weekly for members of Waterford Mennonite Church. Items for inclusion should be given to the editor by 5 p.m. Tuesday preceding publication.

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Model Elementary School remembers Jenny Wengerd

I came to the Model Elementary School building on May 11 for what I thought would be a tree planting ceremony in memory of Waterford member and former MES employee Jenny Wengerd. I was escorted into the school gymnasium which was buzzing with the barely contained chatter of 600+ students and staff together for an all-school assembly and ceremony, marking what would have been Jenny's 48th birthday.

Almost all of her and Doug's family members were present for this bittersweet tribute acknowledging how much she is missed after her tragic death last September 11. A highlight was music teacher Kent Dutchersmith's leading the 3rd graders and others in a Native American song retitled "Oh Maple Tree", in light of the red maple on the school grounds that was planted in Jenny's memory.

The ceremony was inside because the grass was too wet for the whole school to sit down around the tree outside. But after the ceremony, there was a long procession of all the classes out to pass by the tree. This was a touching sight of people dressed mostly in red, Jenny's favorite color. They dropped into the space around the tree's root ball colored pieces of paper with their own memories and expressions of loss after Mrs. Wengerd's death.

The tree is visible across the open schoolyard from the house of Doug, Ben & Isaiah Wengerd. Later a bench will be installed and dedicated beside the tree in memory of Jenny Wengerd. If you drive slowly by Model School on Berkey Avenue, look for the tree behind the school and say a prayer of thanks for Jenny's life.

—Pastor Neil Amstutz



Model students drop in their handwritten expressions on papers around the maple tree planted in Jenny Wengerd's memory.



Doug, Isaiah and Ben Wengerd watch the tribute ceremony in memory of Jenny Wengerd in the Model Elementary School gym.



Doug Wengerd gives a greeting to Model students passing by the tree planted at the school in Jenny's memory.

Beginning June 5, and continuing through July, we will be going to one service. The Nurture hour will begin at 9:00 a.m. and Worship at 10:15 a.m.