

Witness Commission minutes
September 5, 2018
7:00p.m. Pastor Greg's office

Attendees: Chair, Peg Over; Pastoral Liaison, Greg Laszakovits; members Sam Epps, Michelle Clapper, Peggy McFarland, Paula Knudsen Burke

1. Beth DeGoede was a guest presenter as our UCEA liaison about fundraising for the Community Place on Washington. She said there are several different ways they're looking to get money: for the building; for a reserve fund and sustaining donations. Paula asked Beth if she had any suggestions about money. Beth said that giving to the reserve fund (suggestion of \$500/month) would allow the organization to get bank funding. Greg asked how much we are giving right now to UCEA. Peg said it is \$500/year and ECHOES gets \$3,000. Greg asks for confirmation that ECHOES will be using space. Beth said that was correct.
Greg said in the past we have done short-term bigger projects such as Brethren Village, Camp Swatara, the Diener House at Brethren Housing Association. He said this is within our pattern. Peg said we could take money out of O&M, or make a recommendation to the Board to run a Capital Campaign. Greg said we could recommend that 50% could come out of O&M, for instance. He said we could propose giving to the board in a number of different ways.
Peg asked Beth for her thoughts. Beth said it's a good group and a slow group, but she is very excited. More churches coming together and trying to agree on core values – things move kind of slowly, but everybody sees this is a great thing for Elizabethtown. She said there is a lot of excitement about the prospect of churches working together who might not normally work together. Jim R. from Elizabethtown College said he isn't aware of another example of other churches working together in this way.
Paula asked Beth about the board reorganization and explained it seemed less than clear when Doug presented at the July Witness meeting. Jim R from the college has come up with a plan and it will be voted on at the September meeting. Beth said the planned organization will look a lot like the church board. The plan is for two meetings per year and then there are different committees that do things. Instead of having delegates who simply report back to their churches, the delegates will be expected to contribute feedback and approve the budget. Right now there are eight churches that participate but more will be needed. Greg asked Paula what her concern was. She said she was worried about potential board dysfunction in the future, given that it is a new structure.
Paula asked about our own building project, and how does this giving fit in? Greg said it might have a motivating factor is so we can be a witness to the world and do things like this, so he doesn't see \$6,000/year as a cause for concern. Peg said this congregation has such a heart for outreach. Greg said he's heard a complaint that we have too much focus on the international and national level and we need to focus more at the community level. Paula asked how we would recommend to the board that we give money. Greg said in the past we would recommend an amount and a term of giving.
Peg handed out the O&M budget. Greg asked if the money should come from O&M, our annual budget, or fundraiser/appeals. Michelle said this fits into the larger discussion about priorities of giving. Paula asked for clarification of when we get to spend the

\$19,575. Peg says it is until the end of the year. Greg says because the congregation has been very supportive of local community efforts and we still have almost \$20,000, he proposes we meet the challenge of \$6,000/year out of O&M. Paula asked about the past examples cited (Camp Swatara) and whether those came out of O&M. Greg said yes, although in some cases there were other funding sources.

Peg asks if we support the concept of Community Place on Washington. Sam says yes, there's no better opportunity than this. He thinks a separate fundraiser could potentially irk people. Peg read the pledge form from Community Place on Washington about supporting the debt service reserve fund to secure a bond. She said this money is really for the building. Paula expressed concern about giving \$6,000 now and then another \$6,000 in January, so she would rather hold off. Greg said we don't need to make a decision right now about the \$19,575. We could hold off until later in the year. Greg said we could make clear to our board and UCEA board that if for some reason the organization doesn't go well, we could potentially pull money.

Peg ran down through the pledge form to confirm that everyone was in agreement.

Everyone was OK with \$6,000. Michelle pointed out that the pledge isn't due until the end of 2019 so we could potentially wait and see what happens.

Greg asked Michelle if she would be willing to prepare some guiding questions for how we intentionally think about giving money. She said she was happy to do that.

2. "Courage Rising" September 24 @ 7:00 p.m. Pastor Pam will now lead questions/discussion afterwards because Greg is not available. Peg will coordinate cookies and Paula will bring punch. Sam will reach out to campus to drum up publicity.
3. SERRV work day postponed till Tuesday, September 25 due to heat conditions. Karen Ungemach is requesting to sell SERRV once a month.
4. Camp Swatara staff stipend was mailed with personal notes to Alex Mora, Marina McDonough, and Nate DeGoede. Peg said it came to our attention that Ben Heinz was working in the kitchen. Sam said he didn't think kitchen work isn't as much ministerial work. Greg said he could see it going either way, that a good experience could be a launch pad for ministry. Greg wouldn't propose the same amount of money. Paula suggested \$200 or \$250. Peg said \$250, everyone agreed that was OK. Peg said it was from O&M. She will get approval at the board meeting.
5. BHA appreciation event Thursday, November 8 from 6:30-8:00 in our fellowship hall. They will send out invitations but they are hoping for 75 people. It's just once a year and they asked us to host. They are looking for cheese, crackers, fruit, cookies. Peg emailed Lucy and she said she could help.
6. Oct. 7 Love Feast service project. Last year at Love Feast we did clean up buckets. Pastors were looking for some ideas. Discussion about food donations, or act of service that people can participate in. Bear Bags and hygiene kits are both options. It will go in the bulletin so people can prepare for participation.
7. Pastor Pam letter about Maura's service trip. She is taking a gap year to Ecuador where she will serve with Mennonite Mission Network. The trip costs \$10,000 and Maura has raised \$3,000. Pam wanted to know if we could set up a conduit and if we had any grant monies available. Peggy wanted to know if we have a history of giving. Sam said he got money when he travelled to Nigeria. Peg said it was from O&M. Sam said he and Rachel both got money and he thinks it was a few thousand dollars. Paula mentioned that there are a lot of requests like this and do we want to make sure monies like this are given to

people with links to the congregation. Sam said that Pastor Pam is going to debrief with her when she gets back, so that would maintain a connection. Paula suggested having her write in with a letter. Peg said that Maura had asked about a grant application, so she'll email her and invite her to tell us about what she's doing. Pastor Pam's letter had also asked about a conduit, so Peg asked Greg about how we would do a conduit. Greg said ask Frank, but cautioned against having an open-ended conduit (it should have a clear start and stop).

8. CWS (Stephanie Gromek and Christine Baer) would like to meet with us. Peg suggested the October meeting. Peggy asked if we could limit their time. Agreement that a half hour would be OK.
9. Run for Peace will be switching from ANE district to Etown COB
10. 2019 Budget –review of regular (not O&M budget). Peg said a lot of the items like Church World Service, Bob Hollinger & Frank pro-rate throughout year and send to places every month. Discussion about what some line items were, and are there any groups that should go straight into the budget, rather than O&M. We will continue this discussion at the next meeting.

Next meeting Wednesday October 3 at 7:00 Pastor Greg's office