

First Mennonite Church Annual Business Meeting – January 4, 2017

Opening & Devotions: Church Chair Don Esau called the meeting to order on January 4, 2017 at 7 p.m. with 27 in attendance. The lamp was lit by Pastor Brett, symbolizing the presence of God at the meeting. LeRoy Janzen led the group in devotions on an article written by Rachel Gerber: *“To Small Churches: You are enough.”*

2016 Minutes: The minutes of the 2016 Annual business meeting were read by Vicki Frerking. Mike Goossen moved to approve the minutes as read; seconded by Vern Jantzen. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Brett presented his report as found in the annual report and thanked the congregation for all they do for him and the generosity of the congregation in their care of him and his family. Chair Esau thanked him for his leadership to the congregation.

Deacon’s Report: John Penner presented the Deacons report as printed in the annual report, adding that there were Everence matching funds given through the Gift and Service Fund. He thanked the congregation for letting him serve the past six years as Deacon. He said his service was a blessing to him and strengthened him in his faith. He thanked Pastor Brett for his leadership in the church and community. Chair Esau thanked him for his six years served as Deacon.

Deacon Election: The nominee for Deacon is Vern Jantzen. A ballot vote was taken and the election was declared closed by Chair Esau. Later in the meeting it was announced that Vern Jantzen was elected Deacon by a vote of 24-0. Tallying the votes were Dorothy Zimmerman and Doreen Jantzen

Main Ballot: The slate of nominees for open church positions was presented by the Nominating Committee as printed in the annual report with the addition of Merlin Friesen as Missions, Peace, and Service Council Chair. No other nominations were received from the floor. LeRoy Janzen moved to accept the slate of nominees as presented; seconded by Jim Ensz. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Committee Reports: The Annual Report contained the committee reports. There were no additions.

Auditing Committee: Lawrence Reimer reported that all books audited were found to be in order.

Treasurer’s Report: Ross Reimer, central treasurer, presented the 2016 financial report and the proposed 2016-17 budget. Dorothy Zimmerman moved to approve the proposed 2016-17 budget as presented; seconded by Alma Reimer. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Sister Church Update: Pastor Brett reported that currently there are 3-4 people meeting regularly in our sister church congregation, Community of Life Church (Iglesia Menonita Comunidad de Vida) in San Antonio, TX. Western District Conference has informed him there is a new Hispanic church plant in Omaha with about 25 members that may be requesting a Sister Church relationship with FMC. He remains in contact with WDC concerning this.

Adjournment: With no other business or concerns presented, Chair Esau closed the meeting with prayer and extinguished the lamp, symbolizing that God remains not only in this place, but goes with us into the world.

Respectfully submitted, Vicki Frerking, Administrative Assistant