

Annual Business Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2022

Opening and Devotions: Church Chair Dorothy Zimmerman called the meeting to order on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. with 35 members present. The lamp was lit, symbolizing the presence of God at the meeting. Brett Esau led the group in devotions on the topic of “What is God’s calling in your life?”. Chair Zimmerman gave opening comments regarding the challenge of Covid over the past years and the technology upgrades we have initiated due to it in 2021. The challenge of 2022 will continue to be the search for a pastor to serve at FMC, especially after the summer as Interim Pastor Roger Neufeld Smith’s plans to end his interim ministry here.

2021 Minutes: Vern Jantzen moved to approve the minutes of the 2021 Annual meeting and Special Congregational meeting on September 29, 2021 as presented; seconded by Kathy Casey. Motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

Deacon’s Report: Vern Jantzen gave the report for the Deacons and the Gift and Service Fund in Lori Thimm’s absence. The Deacons appreciate the congregation’s contributions to the Fund and thank the congregation for their prayers of support for the Deacons.

Deacon Election: The nominee for Deacon is Vicki Hinz-Ensz for a first term. A ballot vote was taken and Vicki Hinz-Ensz was elected Deacon for a three year term. Tallying the votes were Dolores Jantzen and John Regier.

Main Ballot: Kathy Casey presented the slate of nominees for open church positions on behalf of the Nominating Committee. Chair Zimmerman asked for additional nominations from the floor. Receiving none, **Mike Goossen moved** to accept the slate of nominees as presented, seconded by Pam Kunzman. Motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

Auditing Committee Report: Gerald Jantzen stated that the books audited were found to be in order.

Committee Reports: The Annual Report contained the committee reports.

Pastor’s Report: In addition to his published report, Pastor Roger spoke of the hospitalization of Vern Fast, the death of Ruth Shepherd, the upcoming visit of AMBS President Dave Boshart on January 30, the pending discussions from the Cottage Prayer meetings, and the Annual Study Series coming up on March 27.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Mike Goossen presented the 2021 financial reports. **Vern Jantzen moved** to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented; seconded by Roger Claassen. Motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

2022 Budget: Treasurer Mike Goossen presented the 2022 budget. **Doug Casey moved** to adopt the budget as presented; seconded by Don Jantzen. Motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

Everence Report: Everence FMC Advocate Vern Jantzen spoke on the Everence Sharing Fund which allocates funds for churches to apply for. In 2021 the Deacon’s Fund received \$4,000 to use as needed in the Deacon’s Fund, increased because of Covid. That amount will return to \$2000 for 2022. Of note, Everence representative Lyle Miller will be the guest speaker at FMC on April 24.

Search Committee Report: John Penner reported that in spite of the many calls and meetings and contacts made, they currently have no candidates for a pastor for First Mennonite. They reviewed four Ministerial Leader Information forms of which one candidate withdrew, two were found to not be good matches for FMC, and one decided on a more urban calling. He has spoken with WDC minister Kathy Neufeld Dunn who offers encouragement that there is a pastor for FMC but he/she just hasn’t been found yet.

Other Business:

- 1. Repair of cracks and repainting in the sanctuary:** Building Committee member John Regier presented four bids for this project. The Building Committee recommends the congregation approve the bid from Van's Waterproofing to repair and paint the sanctuary walls/ceiling and reseal the exterior and paint the window surrounds at a cost of \$28,298.30. **Vern Jantzen moved** to accept the bid from Van's Waterproofing; seconded by Roger Claassen. Discussion followed regarding how to pay for the project. Treasurer Mike Goossen said at this time there is extra money in the checking account and there is money in the Undesignated Fund although most of this will be used to pay for the technology upgrades. Chair Zimmerman asked for a show of hands for the motion which passed.
- 2. Recommendation from the Mennonite Loan/Tuition Fund Committee:** On behalf of the committee, Zella Penner presented the recommendation: The First Mennonite Church Tuition/Loan Fund Committee is recommending that the loan/scholarship fund be dissolved, and the money be rolled over to the First Mennonite Church Tuition Fund and use the money, combined with pledges, to continue helping students with tuition expenses. **Zella Penner moved** to accept the recommendation from the Committee; seconded by Brandon Esau. Motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

Adjournment: With no further business, Chair Zimmerman adjourned the meeting with prayer at 8:00 p.m. The lamp was extinguished, symbolizing that God remains not only in this place, but goes with us into the world.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Frerking, Administrative Assistant