

Church Board Meeting Minutes April 15, 2021

The Church Board met at First Mennonite Church on Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 7 p.m. Chair Dorothy Zimmerman called the meeting to order. The lamp was lit signifying God's presence over the meeting. Present were Chair Zimmerman, Vern Jantzen, Don Esau, Pastor Roger Neufeld Smith, Mike Goossen, Marv Goossen, Jim Ensz, Barb Thimm, Jane Esau, and Administrative Assistant Vicki Frerking. Lori Thimm was absent. Barb Thimm led devotions.

Old Business

1. The March minutes were approved as presented.
2. There was not a report from the Technology Committee.

New Business

1. **Update on Corona Virus from Dorothy Zimmerman:** COVID – 19 activity continues to decrease in Gage County and the Public Health Solutions counties. The Risk Dial for Gage County continues in the low range of yellow (moderate risk). As of 4/16/21 there were 17 new cases of COVID-19 in Gage Co. during the last 14 days, down from 41 on 3/18/21. Immunization for COVID-19 in the Public Health Solutions (5 county area) continues to increase with 28.3% being fully vaccinated (two weeks after the second shot or one shot for J & J Vaccine). In addition, the majority of attendees in our congregation are fully vaccinated or have received their first shot. Given the above information, the Church Board decided to:
 - a. Allow use of all the pews. It is easier to spread out using all pews and still be mindful of social distancing.
 - b. Hosts will continue placing the Bulletins at the end of the pews.
 - c. Offering plates will continue to be placed in the Narthex.
 - d. The Deacons will determine how Communion will be served on May 23rd
 - e. Continue to encourage the use of facial masks especially when we sing hymns. We invite all to attend services, with or without a mask, but to be respectful of each person's choice.
 - f. The service will continue to be broadcast over radio station 107.5 and heard in our parking lot and will also be available on face book live.
2. **Delegates to represent First Mennonite are being sought** for the Western District Conference in Newton July 30 to August 1, and for the MC USA Conference July 6-10 in Cincinnati, OH. Both conference's will have virtual events and limited in person events. First Mennonite will pay the registration fee for anyone attending either virtually or in person. There are important issues being decided at both events. Anyone interested in being a voting delegate for either conference should talk to Church Chair Dorothy Zimmerman.
3. Chair Zimmerman presented a **schedule of speakers** for the Sunday's Roger has off:
 - a. May 9: Tim Schrag and LeRoy Jantzen on MDS
 - b. June 6: Vacation Bible School program
 - c. July 11: to be determined
 - d. August 8: Mark Jantzen
4. A special service **to launch the new Voices Together Hymnal** is being planned with Pastor Roger Neufeld Smith and Cynthia on June 13.
5. Vern Jantzen moved to **transfer the Louie Esau Memorial account to the Technology Fund**; Marv Goossen seconded the motion. Motion passed on voice vote.

Pastor's Report:

1. He presented a schedule of topics and readings for the 2nd quarter.
2. Communion will be held on May 23 and he wondered about the protocol for this. He and the Deacons will discuss this.
3. He did several home visits today.
4. He will be taking the required Western District Conference Sexual Abuse Training virtually next week.

Committee Reports:

Mission, Peace & Service Council: Jim felt there was a great response to the MCC presentations.

Worship Council:

1. They met tonight and went over the schedule for 2nd quarter.
2. Creation Care will be the theme for Sunday School and Worship this Sunday.
3. They expressed their appreciation to the worship team singers.
4. They have discussed some ways of including children in communion.
5. They are working on the Hymn Launch Sunday plans with Roger and Cynthia.

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Education Council: They met tonight.

1. Shana Ensz is coordinating with the Sunday School parents in planning summer Sunday School. They will meet in the basement. Regular Sunday School will meet through May 23.
2. The Shine Curriculum will be used for fall Sunday School.
3. Vacation Bible School plans are in place. VBS will not be held in conjunction with Beatrice Mennonite Church this year.
4. The Library Committee is processing many books that have been donated.

Building Committee: Marv will schedule the replacement of the outside carpet at both entrances.

Central Treasurer: Marv Goossen moved to approve the financial reports as presented; seconded by Jim Ensz. Motion passed on voice vote.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. with prayer and extinguishing of the lamp. The next meeting will be Thursday, May 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Frerking, Administrative Assistant