

First Mennonite Church Board Minutes – April 28, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Church Chair Dorothy Zimmerman. The lamp was lit symbolizing God's presence over the meeting. Present were Pastor Roger Neufeld Smith, Dorothy Zimmerman, Don Jantzen, Barb Thimm, Mike Goossen, Don and Jane Esau, Jim and Vicki Ensz, and Administrative Assistant Vicki Frerking. Vern Jantzen was absent. Barb Thimm led the group in devotions on patience and hope.

OLD BUSINESS

▲ Vicki Ensz moved to approve the **March minutes** with a change in where a tree is to be planted at the cemetery in Vern Fast's memory: the minutes should say "on the perimeter of the cemetery" not "in the cemetery"; seconded by Barb Thimm. Motion passed.

Dorothy reported that the **new website** being developed by SOCS is close to done. The existing content is moved, the navigation is done. Dan Kunzman is working on new content and requests recent pictures of church and activities be sent to him.

Dorothy reported that the **services can't be live streamed from the basement** even after Diode installed a booster device for the internet. Pam Kunzman is recording them and posting them to You Tube following the service.

Dorothy asked for **discussion on the recent Annual Study Series**. The consensus was that the 9:30 a.m. service at Summit Street Church was fairly well attended by our members but not many stayed for the second presentation at 10:30 there. There were less than 30 at the Sunday evening service at First Mennonite. There was some discussion as to whether the Annual Study Series has run its course and could possibly be replaced by some other type of study. This will be revisited later in the year.

NEW BUSINESS

Schedule of Speakers: Pastor Roger will be gone May 29 (possibly), June 5, 12, and 26, July 24 & 31. His last Sunday to preach here will be August 21.

May 8: Amanda Thimm and other young adults: "Envisioning a Church that Nurtures Children and Families"

May 15: Roger is planning

May 22: Jim & Vicki Ensz; "Host to the Nations"

May 29: Young Family and Adult Retreat participants will discuss their weekend retreat on Conflict Resolution. (Pastor Roger is available to preach on this Sunday if needed.)

June 5: VBS Program (Pastor Roger will be gone.)

June 12: Pastoral Candidate Josh Janzen will preach and plan worship. There will be a meet and greet time planned by the Search Committee. (Pastor Roger will be gone.)

June 19: Roger is here. Vote will be taken on calling Pastoral Candidate Josh Janzen.

June 26: Members who are involved in MDS (Pastor Roger will be gone.)

Covid Update: The new variant activity is increasing in Nebraska the past two weeks. We will revisit this as needed.

Update on Sanctuary Repair and Painting:

- The color has been selected. White (illumination) for walls and ceiling. A light gray for the arch and window frames.
- While the scaffolding is in place, should consider switching to LED lighting. See Don Jantzen's report below.
- The fan that doesn't work will be replaced. See Don Jantzen's report below.

Pastoral Candidate Process for Candidate Josh Janzen:

- The Search Committee is responsible for planning everything before the congregational vote, including all of the notifications, planning events for the weekend of June 12, tours, and house searches. The congregation will vote on June 19 following worship on the recommendation from the Search Committee to affirm Josh Janzen as Pastor of FMC.
- The Board Chairman is responsible for preparing and negotiating the Covenant of Understanding with final version approved by the Church Board.
- The Treasurer prepares salary, benefits, and Medical Insurance based on WDC Pastoral Guidelines and meets with candidate and Church Board representative to review.

- Church Board together with candidate will arrange an introduction (meet and greet opportunities) to the congregation in September if congregational vote is affirmative.

Pastor's report:

1. Arylis Goertzen's funeral will be at First Mennonite on May 24 at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor Roger and Pastor Tim Amor co-officiating. Lunch will be at the Crawford Event Center.
2. Alice Wiebe's funeral will be on June 8.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mission, Peace & Service Council: Jim and Vicki Ensz are scheduled to speak in church on May 22 about helping refugees and immigrants. Jim has talked with Charity Stowell of MCC and with Ted Blessing of Lincoln Church World Services. Charity Stowell will be part of the May 22 presentation via Zoom. Locally, Dale and Kathy Linsenmeyer have been relating to six different families from Nicaragua who have moved into Beatrice to better their lives. Dale & Kathy often need to locate furnishings on short notice for their apartments or gather household items like towels, sheets, cleaning supplies, etc. Members of these families have jobs and are currently working, but need start-up furniture and supplies. Jim would like to see if there is interest in the congregation to be "on-call" to help with these items on short notice. He would be the designated contact person for our church for those who are interested in helping. He will put a notice in the bulletin and speak about this on May 22 during their presentation.

Worship Council: They have been working with Pastor Roger on worship services.

Education Council:

1. Plans are being made for an intergenerational Sunday School time this summer for adults and children. This will begin on June 19.
2. Vacation Bible School plans are underway but registrations have been slow to come in. Reminders will be sent out and put in the bulletin asking they be submitted by May 14.
3. They will offer the blue hymnals free to any congregation member who would like one.

Building Committee:

1. Don Jantzen has received a bid from Plymouth Electric for labor and materials to install four ceiling fans on 24" stems in the sanctuary (\$940.00) (one isn't working), and for labor and materials to replace lamps in ten hanging fixtures (\$3,950) in the church sanctuary. These would be LED bulbs with an adjustment on the bulb stem that can be set to a warm or cool white when they are installed. ▲Mike Goossen moved to accept the bid from Plymouth Electric for labor and materials for four ceiling fans on 24" stems; seconded by Don Esau. Motion carried. It is hoped that the scaffolding can be used to do this while the church is being repainted.
2. The second part of the bid for the lights was discussed. It was decided that Don Jantzen will order enough bulbs to change one fixture and a decision will be made after that can be observed.
3. Don Jantzen has talked with Alex Eckhoff of Envisions Landscaping about the price of a tree for the cemetery to be placed by Vern Fast's family. The tree will cost between \$300 - \$450 and be \$150 to plant it. It was decided it would be best to plant it at the north end of the trees that are on the east edge of the cemetery. Vern's sister, Viola Juhnke, will be contacted with the information and she can contact the nursery to let them know what kind of tree the family wants.

Central Treasurer's Report:

1. There are no expenses out of the ordinary but he notes that contributions to the General Fund will need to be increased in order to support a new pastor.
2. The Pastor Housing Fund was discussed. When Pastor Brett paid back the borrowed money, none of the donors to the fund wanted their money returned so there is a fund available for a new pastor to use if they desire. It was noted that Don Diller was the first pastor to use the fund and Tim Schrag was the second.

Other Agenda Items:

A farewell for Pastor Roger was discussed. Roger's last scheduled Sunday is August 21 but he is possibly available to preach on August 29 if needed.

With no further items, Chair Zimmerman adjourned the meeting with prayer at 9:35 p.m. The lamp was extinguished, symbolizing that God remains not only in this place, but goes with us into the world.

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Vicki Frerking, Adm. Assistant