

Church Board Meeting Minutes – Regular meeting, August 20, 2020 7 p.m.

Dorothy Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The lamp was lit signifying God's presence and guidance over the meeting. Present in the church fellowship hall were Chair Zimmerman, Erin Vanderschaaf, Vern Jantzen, Jerry Reimer, Lori Thimm, Jim Ensz, Barb Thimm, Pastor Roger Neufeld Smith and Administrative Assistant Vicki Frerking. Mike Goossen was present by phone. Bryan Heinz was absent.

Dorothy Zimmerman opened the meeting with a devotion on "Don't Plan without God" based on Psalm 37:3, 7-9 and prayer.

The July minutes stand approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Dorothy updated the board on current COVID 19 local conditions. It was noted that there are 14 new cases in Beatrice this past week. Also of note, Bethel College is testing all students within an hour of arrival and has at least 50 positive cases. They have made national news with their good COVID protocol. ■ Vern Jantzen moved that in light of current local conditions, First Mennonite's Safe Worship Guidelines remain in place for now; seconded by Barb Thimm. Motion passed by voice vote, with 6 ayes and 1 nay.

Larry Thimm has submitted his resignation from the Finance Committee due to COVID and health concerns. Names were offered as possible replacements. Dorothy will contact the suggested names to see if they will fill out Larry's position.

Some of the church's electronic equipment (laptops, projectors, computers, etc) are in need of replacement. There is also an issue with the sound quality on the face book broadcasts. Dorothy will contact member Pam Kunzman who works in this field and see if she can find a provider who can supply us with quotes on equipment upgrades.

The church received a donation from Darwin, Terri and Alex Jantzen in thankfulness for the church members care following Terri Jantzen's brother's death. They would like it used on a church project. ■ Lori Thimm moved to use their donation for the needed electronics replacement; seconded by Vern Jantzen. The remaining funds for this project will come from member donations and the undesignated funds. Motion passed on voice vote unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

The church picnic, being planned by the Mission, Peace and Service Council, will be held Sunday, September 13 at 5:00 p.m. at Chautauqua Park Tabernacle. With board suggestions, the menu will be pulled pork, hot dogs, chips, baked beans, fruit salad, and drinks. Tracy Crawford will provide ice cream. The meal will not be self serve. Pastor Roger and his wife Cynthia will be in attendance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mission, Peace and Service Council: Report on church picnic given earlier. No other items to report.

Worship Council: They met earlier this evening with Pastor Roger. They will continue with the use of Worship Leaders and Children's Story time. They will assist Roger in securing people to serve in those worship needs.

Education Council: They met last evening to review the results of a survey of parents with children regarding holding Sunday School and Peace Club in this time of COVID-19. 80% of those surveyed said they'd like to see Sunday School resume for ages 2-Sr. High. In response to that, Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 20 at 9:30. Masks will be required and they will meet outside as much as possible. There will be four groups of students: ages 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, and 9 years and older. The Jr. and Sr. High students will be assisting with the four class groups. To allow for social distancing,

they will meet in the fellowship hall in the case of inclement weather. Peace Club will begin on Wednesday, September 23 at 7:00 p.m. for ages Kindergarten -5th grade, masks required. Safe Sanctuary training will be held on Sunday, September 13 at 9:30 in the sanctuary. Any adults who work with our church children need to attend. Teacher Appreciation for the 2019-2020 teachers will be held on Sunday, September 13 during the Sharing time of worship.

Building Committee: The board thanks those who worked on the safety barrier on the balcony railing.

Central Treasurer: The July financial reports show the usual expenses. Of note, the balance held in FMC funds for the Pastor's Housing Loan paid back by Pastor Brett could be put into the Everence Pastor's Housing Loan Fund account. ■Vern Jantzen moved to transfer the \$28,700 held in our local account to the Everence Pastor's Housing Loan Fund, making a total of \$43,457.76 in the Everence account for future pastors housing use: seconded by Erin Vanderschaaf. Motion passed unanimously on voice vote. ■Lori Thimm moved to designate \$12,600 yearly of Roger Neufeld-Smiths salary as housing allowance; seconded by Vern Jantzen. Motion passed on unanimously on voice vote. Mike reported that the church has received a donation from Gail Cross through a Fidelity Charitable Fund for \$1000. This is designated for MCC, \$500, and MDS, \$500.

Interim Pastor:

Pastor Roger Neufeld-Smith has signed a Memo of Understanding for the period of August 23, 2020 to August 22, 2021 at 0.50 FTE (for an average of 25 hours a week) and a salary of \$4,200 per month. As this is a part time position, all benefits offered are included in his salary. He will generally be off the second Sunday of each month. He will be meeting with the Deacons soon.

Dorothy asked for the boards suggestions on fill in speakers for the Sundays Roger is not here.

Roger asked the board for the goals they feel should be in place during his interim here as he is to help FMC prepare for their next pastor. The board would like to see continued engagement with FMC of all attendees, but especially the young families.

Other Items:

A wedding is scheduled at FMC on Saturday, September 19 for Kylee Rempe and Nicholas Nolte. Pastor Jon Palmquist will officiate. They are aware of the church's COVID restrictions.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer and extinguishing of the lamp, signifying that God does not remain in this place but goes with us into the world. The next meeting will be Thursday, September 17 at 7:00 p.m. at First Mennonite Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Frerking, Administrative Assistant