

First Mennonite Church Board Minutes – March 23, 2017

Church Chair Vicki Hinz-Ensz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The lamp was lit, signifying God's presence and guidance over the meeting. Deacon Lori Thimm led the group in devotions. Present were Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Merlin and Rita Friesen, Lori Thimm, Ross Reimer, Larry Thimm, Vern Jantzen, Pastor Brett Klingenberg, Jerry Reimer and Administrative Assistant Vicki Frerking. Lisa Goossen was absent.

Old Business:

1. The minutes of the February meeting were approved as presented.
2. Chair Ensz reported that Attorney Robert Schafer is filing the Nonprofit Corporation Biennial Report for 2017-18 with the State of Nebraska.
3. Pastor Brett was approved for a three year term beginning June 1, 2017 by a congregation vote on March 5 by a vote of 66-0.
4. A new pictorial will be done by LifeTouch. Hopefully photos of members will be taken June 16-17. Vicki Hinz Ensz will set up a committee to handle this.
5. Copies of minutes from 1) a joint meeting of Beatrice Mennonite and First Mennonite Councils from March 30, 1993, 2) Church Board from January 3, 1993 and 3) Annual Church Business Meeting from January 27, 1993 were distributed for the Church Board to review how the Cemetery Perpetual Fund was set up and to be used, how the grounds custodian is to report his time between grounds and cemetery, and presentation of these procedures at the 1993 Annual Meeting. In review, the building committee and cemetery custodian will calculate the cost of the cemetery maintenance yearly. Earnings from the perpetual fund will be applied toward cemetery maintenance costs. If there are not enough earnings to pay the costs, the balance is to be paid by FMC (67%) and BMC (33%). In recent years, there has been enough interest from the perpetual fund to cover the cost, although donations to the perpetual fund are still encouraged.

New Business:

1. We will encourage FMC members to serve as a representative at the MCUSA Convention in Orlando July 4-8 or at the Western District Conference in Arlington, TX August 4-6. Registration fees will be paid by the church and some travel expenses may be available.
2. President Vicki told the board WDC has established 2018 as the Year of Evangelism and will be sending more information in the near future.
3. Karen Wiebe, WMS president, has asked permission for WMS to collect Best Choice labels to benefit Sewing for Babies. There will be a collection box at the church.
- 4.

Committee Reports:

Missions, Peace and Service: No report.

Worship: No report.

Education: No report.

Pastor's Report:

1. I appreciate the vote of affirmation a couple of weeks ago. The congregation has made it easy for me to minister among you and with you and my family and I are very thankful for that.
2. I visited Halley Keeney at Wayne State this week.
3. We will be ending SYF on April 5 with a possible final party sometime this spring.
4. WDC is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year and is collecting some historical data which I submitted already.
5. Pastor Tim Amor and I will be offering a Joint Sermon Series again this spring for five Sundays, April 23-May 21. The series title is "Strange Stories from the Bible."

Building:

1. They are going to put a lock on the elevator access door in the basement for child protection.
2. They've ordered carpet for the west entrance steps to be installed.
3. Church cleaning went well with about 15 helping on Thursday and 20 Friday morning.
4. They are looking at getting hot water to the women's bathroom.

Central Treasurer: We have a balance of -\$2,043.96 for the month of February. A general fund offering was missed on January 15 due to the ice storm and we are still catching up. He mentioned there are outstanding loans to college students who have now graduated. The Mennonite Tuition and Loan Committee will be notified they need to contact those former students.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer. The candle was extinguished, symbolizing God does not remain here only, but goes with us into the world. The next meeting will be Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Vern Jantzen will lead devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Frerking, Adm. Assistant