

First Mennonite church Board Minutes – December 14, 2017

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

Old Business:

1. The **November board minutes** were approved as presented.
2. Vicki Hinz-Ensz reported she had purchased two **plastic folding 8 foot tables** for church use.
3. Jerry Reimer has consented to serve a **second term as Deacon** if elected at the Annual meeting.
4. The **Cemetery Committee** met and they propose that the guidelines established at the January 27, 1993 Annual Church Business meeting be followed in regard to cemetery upkeep expenses: The grounds custodian is to record time spent for upkeep of the cemetery for the year and mower and gas expenses for cemetery upkeep are to be calculated. FMC is to be reimbursed for these expenses from the growth of the perpetual cemetery fund, if there is enough growth to cover it. If not, the balance is to be paid by FMC (67%) and BMC (33%). The FMC treasurer will be responsible for submitting the totals to the Beatrice Mennonite Church Cemetery Committee members for submission in their annual report.
5. **Missions Peace and Service Committee Chair** position was discussed. With the resignation of Merlin Friesen as chair at the November meeting, the church board discussed the need for the position. Meetings are called with very few committee members attending. The board determined by consensus that the position of chair is necessary to monitor the activities of the groups making up the MPS Committee. The chair would then keep the church board and congregation informed of those activities. The board will appoint someone at the January meeting to fill the final two years remaining of the MPS chair position. The handbook will be updated to reflect this slight change in duties of the MPS Chair. This will not be on the Annual meeting agenda as stated in November minutes because no change to the by-laws is proposed at this time.

New Business:

1. Pastor Brett reported on a conversation he had with Byron Pellecer, WDC Associate Conference Minister in the Texas district, regarding our **Sister Church Partnership** with Comunidad de Vida in San Antonio. Because of geographical issues, it is hard for FMC to connect with the San Antonio church which presently has only five members and meets in homes. Byron Pellecer suggested possible partnerships with churches in Wichita or Omaha. Pastor Brett will research the Omaha church to see if it would be a good fit for FMC to continue participating in a Sister Church Partnership. There is also an option of supporting WDC church plants in general with monthly/annual donations.
2. The **2018 Sister Church support** payment of \$1200 to WDC will be held until more information is presented.
3. **A gold ring** was left at church a few years ago and despite notices in the bulletin it was never claimed. Pastor Brett has had it in his office and wonders what he should do with it. A notice will be put in the bulletin again to try to find the owner. It is supposed that the owner was a visitor to First Mennonite.
4. **2018 Budget** was presented by Ross Reimer. ▲ Vern Jantzen moved to accept the budget as presented and present it to the congregation at the annual meeting for approval; seconded by Jerry Reimer. Motion passed. It was noted that **Pastor's Housing Allowance** will remain at \$18,908 as determined by the budget worksheet.
5. **Annual Meeting Agenda:** Vicki Hinz-Ensz said at this time she has not received any agenda items to be considered at the annual meeting.
6. **The 2018 Property Tax Exemption** paperwork has been sent in by the Administrative Assistant.

Committee Reports:

Worship Council: Nothing new to report.

Education Council: No report at this time. The possible By-Law changes discussed at the November meeting regarding Junior Sunday School Superintendent and VBS Committee are tabled for now.

Pastor's Report:

1. Cottage Prayer meeting topic will be Baptism.
2. He will be gone January 15-18 to speak at the Eastern Mennonite School for Leadership Training in Virginia.
3. The church board retreat is January 19 – 20 at the WDC Year of Evangelism Kick Off at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church. Please let Vicki Frerking know of your intentions to attend.
4. Lyle Miller of Everence contacted him proposing a skype conference with the church board to discuss setting up an avenue to facilitate larger donations that may be given to the church. This will be set up for the February church board meeting.

Building Committee: Plymouth Electric has done some work in the attic and put in electrical lines for the needed organ repairs. He has contacted Keim Organ repair to begin those repairs now that Plymouth Electric is finished. The building committee has raised the salaries of the custodians and groundskeeper to \$13.50/hour.

Central Treasurer: There were no out of the ordinary expenses for the month. We brought in \$114 more than we spent in November. Larry Thimm reported that the local Habitat for Humanity Board on which he serves is deciding if the organization can continue to operate in Beatrice due to excessive fees charged by the parent organization and the inability to find qualifying applicants. In recent years only rehabilitation work has been done in Beatrice by Habitat. It was suggested that last Sunday's offering for Habitat be held in the FMC funds until a decision is reached by the local Habitat for Humanity board.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer. The next meeting will be January 18 at 7:00 p.m. with Jerry Reimer leading devotions.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Frerking, Adm. Asst.