

First Mennonite Church Board Minutes – December 16, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Deacon Lori Thimm in the absence of Chair Dorothy Zimmerman. The lamp was lit, symbolizing God's presence over the meeting. Present were Pastor Roger Neufeld Smith, Vern Jantzen, Lori Thimm, Barb Thimm, Mike Goossen, Don Esau, Jane Esau, Marv Goossen, Jim Ensz, and Administrative Assistant Vicki Frerking. Jim Ensz led devotions on gratitude.

OLD BUSINESS

Vern Jantzen moved **to approve the minutes of the November meeting**; seconded by Marv. Motion passed.

New Website: An agreement has been signed with SOCS website developer. The initial mock up of the website is being worked on by SOCS after a meeting between Vicki Frerking, and SOCS representatives Dan Kunzman and Kurt Jaeger. They will send a mock up for preliminary approval in the near future.

Technology Update: Diode Communications installed the Fiber Optic outlets in the balcony and west wall of the basement on December 4. Midwest Sound and Lighting has been working this week to install cameras and connections for streaming services. A training meeting will be held Friday morning, December 17 for audio and video operators.

Costs to be paid soon for completion of Phase 1 are:

- Diode Communications, \$1,073.15
- Midwest Sound & Lighting, second half of charges, \$6,085.00
- Pam Kunzman for handheld camera, about \$500
- The approximate amount left to be paid for Phase 1 is \$7,658.15.

Deacon Nomination: Vicki Hinz-Ensz is the nominee for Deacon.

NEW BUSINESS:

COVID 19 Update: the numbers are still increasing in Southeast Nebraska. Hospitalizations are high throughout Nebraska. The new variant, Omicron, is now in SE Nebraska. Public Health Solutions recommends wearing masks, social distancing, and vaccinations with boosters when eligible. It was the consensus of the board that FMC will not change their guidelines at this time. Masks are optional. Services are available on Face book and in the parking lot for those who prefer.

The Annual Meeting Agenda was reviewed. Vern Jantzen will not be able to give an Everence report as he will be gone.

Schedule of Speakers:

- December 26 – A Service of Lessons and Carols
- January 30 – David Boshart, President of AMBS
- February 27 – Annual Study Series or Everence
- March 27 – Annual Study Series?

Jim Ensz moved to increase **the Administrative Assistant Salary** by \$1.50 per hour effective January 1, 2022; seconded by Marv Goossen. Motion passed.

PASTOR'S REPORT

The speaker for the Annual Study Series is Sandra Montes-Martinez of the WDC Church Planting Commission. The date is yet to be determined.

He is contacting the Shepherds with the information they need for Cottage Prayer meetings on January 8.

He informed the board of a MC USA Special Conference May 27-30 which will be held in Kansas City and have some very important issues. He encourages representation from FMC. We can send up to three delegates. This will be discussed more at the January board meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Missions, Peace, & Service Council: s

- Several people from FMC went to can meat at Newton last month.
- Three couples from FMC went for MDS training in Hesston in November.
- A group of 8-9 volunteers will be traveling to work on a MDS project the third week of January.

Worship Council: the Christmas Eve service of song and scripture is being planned for 6 p.m.

Education Council: No report.

Building Council: Marv is hoping to get more bids for the ceiling/plaster repair and painting of the Sanctuary.

Treasurer's report: The offering for the Stutzman's was short of our \$5000 commitment. We have \$3,710 and will have an announcement in the bulletin to encourage more donations for that.

2022 CHURCH BUDGET

Treasurer Mike Goossen presented the 2022 budget. Adjustments were made. Marv Goossen moved to approve the 2022 budget as adjusted and the Treasurer's Report from November; seconded by Vern Jantzen. Motion passed.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

- Vern Jantzen received a call from daughter Karen about the possibility of sponsoring some Afghan refugees. He has been making calls to get more information to present to the board.
- The basement speaker cords and power cord are missing. They were last used at the Mini-Auction. If anyone knows the whereabouts of those cords, please let Lori Thimm or Vicki Hinz-Ensz know.

ADJOURN: With no further business, the lamp was extinguished signifying God does not remain in this building only but goes with us into the world. The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:10 p.m. The next meeting will be Thursday, January 20 at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Roger will lead devotions.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Frerking