

First Mennonite church Board Minutes – December 19, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chair Vicki Hinz-Ensz. The lamp was lit by Pastor Brett signifying God's presence and guidance over the meeting. Present were board members Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Jerry Reimer, Lori Thimm, Vern Jantzen, Ross Reimer, Dorothy Zimmerman, Pastor Brett Klingenberg, Brad Thimm, Marci Regier, Lisa Goossen, and Administrative Assistant Vicki Frerking. Devotions were led by Vern Jantzen on Zachariah's Song.

Old Business:

The November minutes were reviewed and approved as presented.

New Business:

1. ▲ Ross Reimer moved to **accept the budget** as presented and present it for approval at the annual meeting; seconded by Vern Jantzen. Motion passed.
2. ▲ Vern Jantzen moved to approve the **pastor's housing allowance** for 2020 as negotiated by the church chair, treasurer, and Pastor Brett; seconded by Lori Thimm. Motion passed.
3. **Annual meeting Agenda:** Vern Jantzen was asked to present a report on the actions of the Everence Foundation Committee at the annual meeting.
4. The Administrative Assistant has submitted the yearly **property tax exemption form** to the county for approval.
5. Vicki Hinz-Ensz presented the **criteria for serving on the Selection Committee** for the new pastor. A breakfast meeting will be held with the congregation on January 12 to explain the criteria and procedure for selection of committee members. Forms for nominating individuals to serve on this committee will be distributed at the January 12 meeting with a requested return by February 20.
6. **Food assignments** were made for the January 12 breakfast meeting.
7. The **church website** lists outdated information. It was determined that all committees should review their website information every three months and submit current dates and information to the church office for website updates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Missions Peace and Service: No report.

Worship Committee: They have ordered 204 new **Voices Together hymnals** by the discount deadline at a cost of \$ 4,226.07 plus shipping. There is another discount when they are paid for by April 30, 2020. They will arrive next fall.

Education Council: The Christmas program went well.

Pastors Report:

1. I will be out of the office December 27-28 and January 1-4. I will not be missing any Sundays.
2. The Men's Bible Study will be held on Thursday mornings from 7am-8am January 16-February 27.
3. The Young Marrieds Retreat will be February 28-29 at Mahoney State Park with Kathy Paisely as our speaker presenting on the topic of Spiritual Practices in Ordinary Life.
4. The Bethel College Concert Choir will be at our joint Annual Study Series worship service with Beatrice Mennonite Church on March 29. This will include the full choir not a partial choir as previously reported.
5. The Catechism class is entering their practicum stage of class. They will be participating in the worship service and Sunday School during this time.

Building Committee:

1. The dead tree has been taken out.
2. He has new letters to update the sign by the highway.
3. The supplies for the safety railing upstairs have been purchased.
4. Bryan Heinz will be working on the ceiling repairs upstairs.

Central Treasurer's Report: We ended the month of November with a positive cash flow of \$1,055.

The church board discussed the **process for securing and expectations for an interim pastor**. They decided that primarily the interim must be a good fit for the congregation and the interim's preference of serving part time or full time will be a secondary consideration. The interim will be expected to conduct Sunday morning services and funerals as well as keeping some office hours with additional duties to be determined. Interim options will be explored through Western District Conference as well as through personal contacts.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned and 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 January 16 at 7 p.m. and will include outgoing members as well as the new members.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Frerking, Administrative assistant