

First Mennonite Church Board Minutes - February 18, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Dorothy Zimmerman. Present were Dorothy Zimmerman, Lori Thimm, Mike Goossen, Vern Jantzen, Pastor Roger Neufeld Smith, Barb Thimm, and guest Pam Kunzman. Absent were Don Esau, Jane Esau, Marv Goossen, Jim Ensz, and administrative assistant, Vicki Frerking. Devotions were led by Lori Thimm.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Pam Kunzman presented an update on the progress of the Technology Committee. The committee members are: Bryan Heinz, Neal Trantham, Brett Esau, Van VanderSchaaf, Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Dan Kunzman, LeRoy Janzen, and Pam Kunzman, Chair. The committee discussed the vision for technology for FMC, and came up with these ideas:
 - Good quality video & audio in our recordings & broadcast of our Sunday service
 - Live stream with multiple cameras for different focal points & angles in the sanctuary
 - Camera mobility to allow live stream of activities in other areas, such as the basement, outside, etc.
 - Consolidate the video operation to one system for producing the DVD's and the live stream
 - Ability to offer a video recording of events, such as weddings & other special ceremonies
 - TV in the basement to display sanctuary video stream, i.e., overflow seating. Larger TV on a cart that could be used in the fellowship hall or in the other rooms downstairs
 - TV on a cart upstairs for use in Sunday School rooms
 - Ability to bring outside speakers in via Zoom
 - Storage space to save our video
 - Ability for others to find FMC services through multiple channels, such as Facebook, YouTube, FMC Website, etc.
 - Use the FMC website to promote our church
 - Ability to hear the service on the FM Channel from the parking lot
 - Clean up the front of the church by mounting the projectors & moving the laptop to the balcony
 - Upgrade laptops to current operating system
 - Building security cameras

After a solution is defined, they will need to determine if we have the bandwidth to support it. Also, they will need to determine the cost of the solution & make a recommendation to the board. Based on the cost & the budget that may be allocated, they may need to alter their solution and/or create a plan to phase in the changes over a period of time.

For the meantime, it was discussed whether we should buy a new camera to video our services before purchasing other equipment.

Our microphones aren't working very well, so Pam will check with Midwest Sound out of Lincoln to see what we need to improve the problem. Vern has also been in touch with Brian

York from Christ Community to address this problem, as well. Nick Jurgens from Nick J's Computers, has offered to help with suggestions.

2. The January meeting minutes stood approved as presented.
3. At our last meeting, it was discussed whether we should form a committee to look at reviewing & updating our by-laws and tabled until this meeting. It was decided that right now we have enough to deal with, so we will postpone that project until this fall at least and reevaluate it at that time. We will put in on the agenda later.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Covid 19 update:** Positive cases continue to decline. We have moved into the middle yellow zone. Immunizations of Tier 1A are completed & Tier 1B continues. A discussion followed concerning whether we should make any changes to our current activities & safety practices. It was decided that we could put the Bibles & hymnals back in the pews. Rather than put the old hymnals in the pews, we will put the new ones in as soon as they have been labeled. Instead of stamping them, Vicki Hinz-Ensz has offered to make clear labels to put on the front page. We will continue to social distance, recommend wearing of face masks, keep the offering plate in the narthex, and not use greeters at this point. Shepherd groups may meet if they so choose, as long as they adhere to these safety practices.
2. **Camp Mennoscah Scholarships:** Camp Mennoscah is planning on convening this summer, but with limited attendance. Registrations on line are open, and encouraged to be done as soon as possible. We again will offer scholarships and will ask for donations from the congregation. If not enough money is received, the money will come out of the general fund.
3. **Schedule of speakers on Roger's Sunday's off:**
 - March 14 - Annual Study Series with Natalie Frisk. She will have a pre-recorded message. The Worship Council will plan the rest of the service. The cost of the service will be \$500: FMC \$200, BMC \$200, and Tim Amor will see if WDC will pay \$100. If not, we will each put in another \$50. The evening service will be a pre-recorded message that everyone can log onto at home. The following Sunday, March 21, will be a live interactive question and answer session done virtually. Details of how that will work are unknown at this time.
 - April 11 - Maynard Knepp from MCC will be here. He will do something during the S.S. hour, give the children's story, & give the sermon.
 - LeRoy Janzen will give an MDS report in May or June.
 - Other ideas presented were, Mosaic would like to come at a later time when they can bring some residents along with them. Mark Jantzen from Bethel College may come sometime. Tim Schrag is the new MDS Region 3 board chair and may be willing to come. Blue Valley Mental Health Services may have someone that would come to give a message.

*Mosaic is still interested in cleaning our church but not quite ready to do so at this point. We will continue with our cleaning schedule in the meantime.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Roger reported that he received a letter from the WDC Resources Commission asking if there would be any churches who would be willing to donate money for other churches who don't have funds to purchase the new hymnals. Nothing was decided.

Vern Jantzen reported that Everence has given us \$2000 which is to be used for the Gift and Service Fund also known as the Deacon's Fund.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mission, Peace and Service Council: No report.

Worship Council: They will be using the Lenten materials that go along with what Pastor Roger is using. They again will ask for donations of Easter lilies from the congregation in memory of someone. They will also provide palms for the children on Palm Sunday.

Education Council: Barb reported that children's S.S. will begin this coming Sunday, February 21.

Building Committee: No report.

Central Treasurer's Report: Mike Goossen presented the report. Vern Jantzen moved to approve the report; seconded by Lori Thimm. Motion passed by voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS: Dorothy brought up the subject of church cleaning. Because of Covid, it was decided to postpone church cleaning until a later date.

Dorothy also wondered whether we needed some guidelines for calling off church services during inclement weather. After some discussion it was decided that the pastor with the help of the deacons should make that decision and let the Shepherds help to notify the congregation.

Adjournment: With no further business brought before the board, the meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer. The next meeting will be March 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Thimm, Church Board Secretary.