

First Mennonite Church Board Minutes – February 16, 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 Vern Jantzen led the group in devotions. Present were Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Lisa Goossen, Merlin and Rita Friesen, Lori Thimm, Ross Reimer, Larry Thimm, Vern Jantzen and Administrative Assistant Vicki Frerking. Absent were Jerry Reimer and Pastor Brett Klingenberg.

Old Business:

1. The January 2017 **meeting minutes** stand approved as presented with a typographical correction of "further" rather than "father" in the final paragraph.
2. A **Church Board Retreat** will not be held this year as no mutually available date could be found. Plans will be made for a retreat to be held next year.
3. After discussion, the board decided to have Chair Vicki Hinz-Ensz contact Life Touch to get information about doing a new **church pictorial directory** with them. She will report back to the board.

New Business:

1. Beatrice Mennonite Church will not be billed for **cemetery maintenance** at this time but donations to the Cemetery Maintenance Fund are always welcome.
2. **Camp Mennoscah** fees will again be paid by First Mennonite Church for those who regularly attend FMC worship and/or activities. If registration forms are turned in to the church office before the early registration date of May 1, 2017, the camper will also be given a free camp t-shirt. Congregational donations will again be requested to cover the cost of sending youth to Camp Mennoscah.
3. **Pastor Brett's three year Covenant of Understanding** will expire on May 31, 2017. A congregational vote will be held on March 5, 2017 to affirm his covenant to May 31, 2020. If congregation members will be absent on that day, they are encouraged to send a note of affirmation or dissent but absentee ballots will not be allowed. Bulletin notices will be published for two weeks prior to the vote.
4. An **insert for the Church Constitution and Bylaws booklet** will be made and distributed, noting the changes made since the printing of the current book in 1987.
4. The current **copy machine lease** expires on February 28, 2017. Ross Reimer moved to sign a three year lease and maintenance agreement with Midwest Office Automations for a new copy machine at a cost of \$132.50 per month. (Currently we pay \$135.55 with Midwest Office Automations.) Motion seconded by Rita Friesen. Motion passed on voice vote.

Committee Reports:

Worship Council: They've planned an Ash Wednesday service and a Maundy Thursday Foot Washing Service with Communion and a soup supper on April 13. Sarah Schenk, AMBS President will speak on March 19. Other Communion services are March 5 and June 11.

Education Council: They are planning Vacation Bible School and updating their pages in the Handbook.

Pastor's Report: None.

Building Committee: They have scheduled Church Cleaning for March 9 at 5:00 p.m. and March 10 at 8:00 a.m. They've repaired outlets and lights and are checking on installing heat in the women's bathroom. They will replace the carpet on the west entrance step and look into painting the kitchen.

Central Treasurer: Treasurer's reports were presented showing a balance of \$571.79.

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, March 23 at 7:00 p.m. Lori Thimm will lead devotions.

Respectfully submitted, Vicki Frerking, Administrative Assistant