

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH BOARD MINUTES – FEBRUARY 20, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chair Dorothy Zimmerman. The lamp was lit signifying God's presence and guidance over the meeting. Present were Chair Zimmerman, Deacon Jerry Reimer, Deacon Lori Thimm, Treasurer Mike Goossen, Pastor Brett Klingenberg, Worship Council Chair Erin Vanderschaaf, Building Committee Chair Bryan Heinz, Ed Council Chair Barb Thimm and Administrative Asst Vicki Frerking. Deacon Vern Jantzen and Missions, Peace and Service Chair Jim Ensz were absent. Devotions were led by Jerry Reimer based on Zechariah 4:6-10.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Jerry Reimer moved to approve the January 2020 meeting minutes; seconded by Erin Vanderschaaf. Motion passed.
2. Everence: Vern Jantzen, Everence Foundation Committee member, is meeting with Lyle Miller of Everence tonight and will have a report next month regarding possibly establishing an Endowment Fund at First Mennonite.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Camp Mennoscah Scholarships:** Lori Thimm moved that registration fees and a camp Tshirt be paid for by First Mennonite for all children of the congregation who would like to attend Camp Mennoscah camps this summer; seconded by Barb Thimm. Motion passed.
2. **Homestead Harmonizers** have asked if First Mennonite would like them to sing at worship service on either July 12 or 26. The board determined July 12 would be best.
3. **Bethel Choir performance** is scheduled for Sunday, March 29. The Hospitality Committee is working on coordinating housing for the 50 choir members for Saturday, March 28. They will perform Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. at Beatrice Mennonite Church in conjunction with the Annual Study Series that morning. Following the worship service, a Meet and Greet with the choir is scheduled from 10:30 to 11:00 after which they 'll leave by bus.
4. **Mission Partner's** David and Rebekkah Stutzman of Germany are planning a visit to the United States in 2020. Pastor Brett asked the board's opinion on postponing a visit from the Stutzman's until a future year when new pastor will be in place at FMC and also wanted to start a conversation about maintaining connection with the Stutzman's during the absence of a pastor. The Board would like the Stutzman's to include First Mennonite in their visit in summer 2020. Jim and Vicki Ensz have offered to host the family on their next visit. The board will ask Jim Ensz, chair of Missions, Peace, and Service Council, to extend an invitation to them with the offer to pay for the tickets for their visit. Pastor Brett also suggested that congregation members may want to include a visit to the Stutzman's in Germany on any future travels. No board vote taken.

COMMITTEE/COUNCIL REPORTS:

Missions, Peace, & Service Council: No report.

Worship Council: They are planning the Maundy Thursday worship and looking ahead to initiating use of the new hymnal in late summer.

Education Council: Carol Dierksen, author/writer of the Detectives of Divinity material that is used in Peace Club has contacted them asking if FMC would host a workshop to introduce the newest material that is ready for use next fall. Carol will take care of publicity. It will be on Saturday, April 25 from 10:00 am to 12:00 p.m. Barb wondered if we should offer her a speakers honorarium or mileage. It was the consensus of the board that since she contacted us and is using the workshop to help promote her material, no honorarium or mileage should be paid.

Pastor's Report:

1. **Anthony Hixson**, a Beatrice photographer, has asked permission to take picture of the inside of the church. He's compiling pictures of older buildings in the community. No one had any opposition to this.
2. **Eight new members** will be joining First Mennonite during the worship service on Sunday, March 1.
3. **Kevin King, Executive Director of Mennonite Disaster Service**, will be in Beatrice on the weekend of March 7-8. Saturday morning will feature breakfast at Country Cookin' with Kevin at 8:30am where he will share stories and give an update on MDS in 2020. Friends of MDS, donors, volunteers, and interested folks are welcome to come. Please RSVP to Pastor Brett if you plan to attend. On Sunday, Kevin will speak in the fellowship hall at FMC during the Sunday School hour and then preach during worship. Church board will provide doughnuts and coffee.

4. **The Deacons and Catechism/Baptism Class** will meet on March 18.
5. Board members asked about having a **celebration to welcome** the new members. It was decided that a pot luck will be held on Sunday, April 26 to welcome and honor both the new members and those who will be baptized on Easter.

Building Committee:

1. **Balcony railing:** Work has been underway and it will be installed in March. The work has been done by members.
2. **Basement carpet replacement:** Bryan had samples of carpet tiles from Jim's Carpet. Quotes, including removal of old carpet and installation, range from \$8,525 to \$11,725. Erin VanderSchaaf moved to recommend to the congregation that carpet tiles be purchased and installed in the basement at a cost of approximately \$8,525 to be paid for with Undesignated Foundation Funds minus any congregational donations toward the project; seconded by Mike Goossen. Motion passed. This recommendation will be presented at a special congregational meeting being held March 10 for election of the Pastoral Search Committee. Notice of the meeting with agenda items will be in the next three bulletins, satisfying Constitution Article X, B.
3. **Church Cleaning** dates are Thursday, March 12 at 5 p.m. and Friday, March 13 at 8:00 a.m. This will be coordinated with WMS Executive Committee.

CENTRAL TREASURER'S REPORT: Reports were reviewed. Out of the ordinary expenditures this month were for the Young Adult Retreat next weekend in the amount of \$1,217.60 and propane for \$1,974.00 to fill both tanks. Lori Thimm moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented; seconded by Erin VanderSchaaf. Motion passed.

*Pastor Brett left the meeting at this time as the board remained to discuss Search Committee Elections and the Interim Pastor search.

Additional Items Considered:

Pastoral Search Committee: Chair Zimmerman presented the list of nominees submitted by church attendees to serve on the Pastoral Search Committee. Nineteen names were submitted. They are: (in alphabetical order) Doris Claassen, Rodney Ensz, Shana Ensz, Brandon Esau, Brett Esau, Don Esau, Jane Esau, Paula Heinz, Kari Janssen, Katie Jantzen, Christina Lyons, John Penner, John Regier, Jerry Reimer, Ross Reimer, Brad Thimm, Lori Thimm, Erin Vanderschaaf, and Van Vanderschaaf. A Special Congregational Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10 at 7 p.m. to elect committee members from the 19 nominees. Notice of the meeting with agenda items will be in the next three bulletins, satisfying Constitution Article X, B. Election of committee members will take place as it did in the previous Pastoral Search Committee elections: All attendees will vote for five of the nominees listed above. The top ten selected by that first ballot will proceed to the second ballot where attendees will again vote for five nominees. The five nominees receiving the most votes from the second ballot will serve on the Pastoral Search Committee.

Interim Pastoral Care: Options were discussed by board members.

Adjournment: With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 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 March 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Frerking, Administrative Assistant