

First Mennonite Church Board Minutes – February 17, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Church Chair Dorothy Zimmerman. The lamp was lit, symbolizing God's presence over the meeting. Present were Pastor Roger Neufeld Smith, Dorothy Zimmerman, Vern Jantzen, Don Jantzen, Barb Thimm, Mike Goossen, Don and Jane Esau, Jim and Vicki Ensz, and Administrative Assistant Vicki Frerking. Vern Jantzen led devotions.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The **January 2022 minutes** were approved as presented.
2. Chair Zimmerman reported that the **new website** is still being worked on by SOCS and Dan Kunzman.
3. Chair Zimmerman read a **Technology Committee report** from Chair Pam Kunzman regarding the progress of the technology upgrades. The service is being live streamed on You Tube and we now have 100+ subscribers so will have a permanent URL. The video and audio equipment is working well. The picture is clear and the audio is very good, with the exception of the congregational responses in the Call to Worship and Affirmation of Faith. A mic could be added over the congregation to catch that sound better but because of the high ceiling, it was decided to use a congregation leader with a microphone on those responses. Some of the other complaints from viewers are related to the age of the equipment they are viewing on and the strength of their internet connection.
4. **MC USA Special Session** May 27-30: FMC may send three delegates. Presently, no one from the congregation has shown interest. This was tabled until the March meeting.
5. Daryl Riesen has agreed to fill the **vacancy on the Cemetery Committee** caused by Vern Fast's death.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Sanctuary Repair:** Shawn VanLaningham has indicated they could begin working on the sanctuary repairs and painting within the next month. Worship during the work will be held in the basement.
2. Chair Zimmerman reviewed the visit of David Boshart, AMBS President and summarized the discussion of the multi-generational group. As a result, the Church Board took the following action:
 - a. In response to AMBS President David Boshart's suggestion that the congregation look at developing local leadership, ▲ Vern Jantzen moved to **make members aware that FMC will offer financial support if they want to explore what AMBS offers** in seminars, classes, retreats, etc to make them feel more grounded in church leadership. Seconded by Vicki Hinz-Ensz. Motion passed.
 - b. With no candidate for a permanent pastor, the Board authorized Chair Zimmerman to contact Western District Conference to begin searching for **another interim Pastor** to begin in September 2022.
 - c. **Revisit the FMC Mission Statement** to determine in what new ways does it still apply? What other opportunities are possible for new mission projects of FMC?
3. **Schedule of guest speakers** on Roger's Sunday's off are Sharon Schuster on February 27; Annual Study Series with Sandra Montes-Martinez WDC Associate Conference Minister on March 27; Lyle Miller of Everence on April 24. Roger will be gone May 29, June 12 and 21, 2022.
4. **COVID** seems to be decreasing in incidence across the nation. Covid precautions will remain as they've been at First Mennonite Church.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Discussion was held regarding the Annual Study Series. It will be held on March 27 with a worship service at 9:30 a.m. at Summit Street Church followed by Sunday School there for adults and children at 10:30 a.m. The Sunday evening service will be held at 6:30 p.m. at First Mennonite Church. A third session will be a Zoom meeting Sunday, April 3. WDC Associate Pastor Sondra Montes-Martinez will be the speaker.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Mission, Peace & Service Council:** Jim Ensz report that those who recently worked on MDS projects will present during Sharing and Prayer soon. The Nebraska MCC Sale is in person this year on April 1-2.
2. **Worship Council:** They will meet March 17. There will not be an Ash Wednesday service. They are planning Lent services.
3. **Education Council:** VBS is being planned. Peace Club is meeting through March 30. There will be no Sunday School on February 20.
4. **Building Committee:** Don Jantzen reported that Doug Casey will be the new grounds keeper. He will be checking with Marv Goossen for details on the sanctuary repair and painting. It is hoped that the work can begin

immediately after Easter. The Board recommends that the Building Committee look into updating the First Mennonite Church sign along the highway and to replace the reflectors at each entrance.

5. **Central Treasurer's Report:** Mike reported that there were two different expenditures this month. One was for a new laptop computer to be used both in the office and for live streaming the service. The other was to pay for the Young Adult Retreat to Nebraska City in January.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Vern Fast's sister has asked **permission to plant a tree** in the cemetery in honor/memory of Vern Fast. This is okay with the Church Board but the Cemetery Committee will be consulted. Vern donated some money to his Shepherd Group. Don Jantzen will check with the group to use the money for a tree.
2. Three young people and two sponsors are attending **Rocky Mountain Mennonite Snow Camp** Feb 18-20. The youth's fees have been paid from the Camp Mennoscah Fund.
3. FMC youth are encouraged to register for **Camp Mennoscah** and FMC will pay for their registration and a T-shirt.
4. Vern Jantzen reported that **WDC is looking for nominations** to fill its commission and board positions. If anyone is interested they can be referred to WDC website and call Vern with questions.
5. There are no more copies of the book **"God's Love in Action"** (History of the Mennonites in Gage County). Vicki will check with the publisher, Mennonite Press to see if a small number of copies could be reprinted. Also discussed possibly updating it for the 150th Anniversary of FMC in 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items, Chair Zimmerman adjourned the meeting with prayer at 9:35 p.m. The lamp was extinguished, symbolizing that God remains not only in this place, but goes with us into the world.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Frerking, Administrative Assistant