

First Mennonite Church Board Minutes – January 17, 2017

Church Chair Don Esau called the meeting to order. The lamp was lit by Pastor Brett, signifying God's presence and guidance over the meeting. Pastor Brett led the group in devotions. Incoming and outgoing board members were present, including Pastor Brett Klingenberg, Don Esau, Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Jerry Reimer, Wendy Kyser, Lisa Goossen, Larry Thimm, Lori Thimm, Ross Reimer, Vern Jantzen, Rita Friesen, and Administrative Assistant Vicki Frerking.

Old Business:

1. **The December 2016 meeting minutes** stand approved as presented.
2. **Chair Esau welcomed** the new board members and thanked the outgoing ones for their service.
3. **A new Photo Directory** was discussed and authorized by the Church Board last year. Options were again discussed and will be pursued in the near future.

New Business:

1. **Board Secretary:** Lisa Goossen volunteered to serve as the Board Secretary.
2. **The window restoration project** was reviewed for the incoming board members. The window project began with an inspection of the windows to determine their value for our church insurance policy. They were found to be in disrepair and the Building Committee made the following recommendation at a special voters meeting on July 20, 2014:
"It is recommended First Mennonite Church contract with Architectural Glass Arts of Lincoln to restore and repair the south stained glass window and add a new glass storm window. The cost of \$13,000 would be paid out of the undesignated funds in the Mennonite Foundation until congregational donations for the project could be received. Upon completion of the south window, a decision will be made as to how to proceed with the remaining windows and storm windows, restoration of which could cost an additional \$60,000. With congregational approval, this would be funded with donations from the congregation with the balance coming from undesignated funds."
The congregation passed the recommendation. To this point, the payment for the windows has been able to be paid from the general fund. This work has been ongoing for the past two years. Larry Thimm will get an update from the company and present it to the congregation on Sunday.
3. **Homestead National Monument** has requested use of our parking lot in August for the Solar Eclipse. Homer Friesen, our property insurance agent, said this would not be a problem. They will not use the parking lot on Sunday morning.
4. Chair Esau reminded the board that **Pastor Brett's three year term** will expire June 1, 2017 so a congregational vote will need to be taken prior to that.

Committee Reports:

Missions, Peace and Service Council: No report.

Worship Council: They met last week and invite members ideas for special music and other ideas to be incorporated into worship.

Education Council: They will meet Thursday. They will review the budget and review job descriptions. An updated Safe Sanctuary policy noting the proper agency to be contacted in the case of an incident will be sent to Homer Friesen and Atty. Laura Maurstad. The Safe Sanctuary Team will meet in February.

Pastor's Report: He is planning a day long board retreat at the Odell Rice Lodge Conference Center. He will email board members with options for dates.

Building Committee: They will look into getting hot water in the women's restroom and painting the kitchen.

Central Treasurer: There were no unusual expenditures to report.

With no father 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, February 16 at 7:00 p.m. Jerry Reimer will have devotions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki Frerking, Administrative Assistant