

First Mennonite Church Board Minutes – January 18, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. by Chair Vicki Hinz-Ensz. The lamp was lit by Pastor Brett, signifying God's presence and guidance over the meeting. Present were board members Vicki-Hinz-Ensz, Jerry Reimer, Lori Thimm, Vern Jantzen, Kathy Casey, Pastor Brett Klingenberg, Lisa Goossen, Vern Fast and Administrative Assistant Vicki Frerking. Chair Ensz welcomed the new board members Kathy Casey and Vern Fast.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The **December board minutes** were approved as presented.
2. **Appointment to fulfill MPSC Chair position:** With the resignation of Merlin Friesen the responsibilities of this position were revised. Rather than having meetings with the auxiliary organizations, the MPSC Chair will encourage communications between the various ministries of the church and congregation. This chair will remain a member of the Church Board. A revised statement of responsibilities was reviewed. Vicki Hinz-Ensz will contact potential chairs suggested to fulfill the remaining two years of Merlin's term.
3. **Appointment to fulfill Alvin Kroeker's term as auditor:** Vicki Hinz-Ensz will ask Gerald Jantzen who just went off the Auditing Committee to fulfill the final year of Alvin's term.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Review of Annual meeting:**
 - a) **Janitorial Staff:** As announced at the annual meeting, Custodians Merlin and Rita Friesen will be moving to Minnesota later this year. Currently they and Katie Jantzen share the custodial duties. Building Chair Vern Fast will consult with the Friesen's and Katie on their plans and secure a replacement if needed.
 - b) **Dates for membership data:** It was decided if there are births or deaths that occur between the end of the fiscal year and the time the annual report is printed, it is best to include it in the report, with a notation regarding the dates the statistics cover.
2. **Election of Board Secretary** (not the recording secretary): Lisa Goossen volunteered to serve as the Board secretary.
3. **Church Board Devotion Schedule:** The schedules were distributed.
4. **Technology updates:**
 - a) **IT personnel/committee for troubleshooting** and instructions: It was suggested that there be a contact person who is familiar with the technology being used on Sunday mornings to help when things are not working on Sunday mornings. Doug Casey will be asked to fill this role.
 - b) **Projector Screens:** The new projectors project a wider picture than the old ones so it was suggested that the trim surrounding the screens on the wall be painted the same color as the walls so they are not distracting when showing videos, etc. The building committee will look into options concerning this.
5. **Camp Mennoscah Scholarships:** ▲Vern Jantzen moved to again offer Camp Mennoscah Scholarships to FMC youth and a T-shirt; seconded by Lori Thimm. Motion passed. The congregation will be asked to contribute toward sending the kids to camp.

6. **Agri-Urban Treasurer:** Since the parent organization behind Agri-Urban has been discontinued, Don Jantzen, Beatrice Agri-Urban Treasurer, has asked about the future of the local organization. If a program like it is to continue, he would like First Mennonite to find a replacement for his treasurer position.
7. **Men's Brotherhood:** This organization has not met for the past two years. Joe Thimm of Beatrice Mennonite and Marv Goossen will be asked to call a meeting of Men's Brotherhood to determine the future of the organization.
8. **Habitat for Humanity:** Larry Thimm, Habitat Board member, informed us at a past meeting that the future of the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity is undecided. First Mennonite Church supports them with donations yearly. Larry will be asked to keep us informed of the direction the organization is going.
9. **Sister Church Update:** Western District Conference informed Pastor Brett that there are two levels of participation. The first is a social relationship with a financial obligation. The second is general support to WDC to plant Hispanic churches. Our three year commitment to Community of Life Church in San Antonio, TX has been met and all financial obligations are paid. At this time FMC is not entering into another sister church relationship.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **MPSC:** No report.
2. **Worship:** No report.
3. **Education:** They met earlier this evening.
 - a) **Peace Club** will meet with Prayer Partners on March 21.
 - b) **Vacation Bible School** will be held May 29-June 1 with the theme "Peace Lab".
 - c) The **Junior Sunday School and Adult Sunday School Superintendents** job descriptions have been rewritten for the Handbook. A new position of **Resource Director** has been created in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws with the job description in the Handbook. The new job duties will be effective in September, 2018.
4. **Pastor's Report:**
 - a) **Church Board Retreat** activities for this coming weekend were reviewed.
 - b) **Men's Bible Study** will begin Thursday, February 15 at 7:00 a.m. during the Lenten season.
 - c) **The Ash Wednesday** service will be held on February 14 at 6:30 p.m.
5. **Building Committee:** No report.
6. **Central Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was presented, showing a positive cash flow for the month of December of \$7,438.50.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. with prayer. The lamp was extinguished, symbolizing that God remains not only in this place, but goes with us into the world.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Frerking, Adm. Asst.