

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH BOARD MINUTES – JANUARY 16, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by newly elected Chair Dorothy Zimmerman. The lamp was lit by Pastor Brett signifying God's presence and guidance over the meeting. Those newly elected to the church board as well as those who are going off the board were asked to attend. Present were newly elected board members Dorothy Zimmerman, Chair; Bryan Heinz, Building Committee Chair; Mike Goossen, Church Central Treasurer; Erin Vanderschaaf, Worship Committee Chair; and Barb Thimm, Education Council Chair; current board members Vern Jantzen, Jerry Reimer, Pastor Brett Klingenberg; and 2019 board members Marci Regier, Brad Thimm, and Lisa Goossen; and Administrative Assistant Vicki Frerking. Absent were Ross Reimer, outgoing Central Treasurer; Vicki Hinz-Ensz, outgoing Church Chair; and Lori Thimm, Deacon.

Pastor Brett Klingenberg led devotions.

OLD BUSINESS:

▲ Vern Jantzen moved to approve the December meeting minutes; seconded by Brad Thimm. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Chair Zimmerman welcomed the new members to the board and thanked those who are going off.
2. The 2020 devotion schedule for meetings was distributed.
3. The annual meeting minutes were reviewed but not ready for approval yet.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Council:

1. Youth Resource Director: Shana Ensz will continue to serve in this position.
2. Junior Sunday School: All teachers are in place for this quarter.
3. Young Adults: Will be studying Matthew.
4. SYF: SYF will not attend Snow Camp this year. They will focus on doing service projects this session. They will begin meeting in February.
5. JYF: No class members.
6. The Junior and Adult Sunday School Superintendent positions were inadvertently omitted from the ballot for annual meeting elections. This prompted discussion within Education Council about the necessity for these positions. It has worked very well for the Junior Sunday School to have a Resource Director and they think it could work out well to change the Adult Sunday School Superintendent position to an Adult Sunday School Resource Director. The Resource Director is appointed, not elected. This change is not in line with the Constitution. ▲ Vern Jantzen moved to make this change, as a recommendation from the Education Council, to operate without Sunday School Superintendents as a pilot program for a year before proposing a change to the Constitution; seconded by Jerry Reimer. Motion passed. Of note, Vicki Hinz-Ensz has volunteered to serve as an Adult Sunday School Resource Director. In the absence of a Jr. Sunday School Superintendent, the Children's Resource Director will serve as a member of the Safe Sanctuary Team.

Missions, Peace, and Service Committee: No report.

Worship Council: They will meet again during Lent to plan the observance of Maundy Thursday.

Pastor's Report:

1. The membership class begins this Sunday.
2. Gentre Esau baby dedication will be February 2.
3. Henry Vanderschaaf baby dedication will be March 16.
4. He will be gone on vacation February 12 – 15.

Building Committee:

1. The new letters for the highway sign have been put up.
2. The work on the balcony railing will begin soon.
3. The flood lights spotlighting the church are out again. It's recommended an electrician troubleshoot this.
4. Bryan asked for guidance from the board on which projects should be addressed first, the ceiling and wall repairs in the sanctuary or the carpet replacement in the basement. Carpet quotes from Jim's Carpet were presented for replacement of the basement carpet, ranging from \$5,700 to \$11,700, depending on the grade and type of carpet (roll or tiles). The space is about 3200 square feet. It was mentioned that if the pews will be removed for repair of the sanctuary ceiling and walls, perhaps the carpet should be replaced there too. There was discussion on other materials that could be used as well as whether the existing tile in the basement (probably asbestos) would require any additional care.. Bryan will present more information at the next meeting regarding these projects and the replacement of the carpet on the east entrance outside ramp. The board felt the carpet replacement in the basement should be the first priority.

Central Treasurer: Reports were distributed for review. No out of the ordinary expenditures were made last month.

Additional Items Considered:

1. Vern Jantzen distributed new Everence pamphlets and informed the board that Everence will be putting on Wednesday Webinars. He also read the obituary of Ann Rupp who has connections to First Mennonite Church.
2. Pastor Brett Klingenberg was excused from the meeting at 8:15 p.m. so the board could discuss interim pastor options.

Adjournment: With no further business, the meeting was adjourned 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 February 20 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Frerking, Administrative Assistant