

First Mennonite Church Board Minutes – January 20, 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, Lori Thimm, Barb Thimm, Mike Goossen, Don Esau, Jane Esau and Administrative Assistant Vicki Frerking. Absent were Jim and Vicki Ensz. Dorothy Zimmerman led devotions. Chair Zimmerman welcomed new member Don Jantzen to the board as chair of the Building Committee and thanked Lori Thimm for her service the past six years as Deacon.

Appointment to Worship Committee: As Vicki Hinz-Ensz was elected Deacon at the Annual Meeting January 12, 2022, she has requested to be relieved of her duties as chair of the Worship Committee for 2022. ♦Mike Goossen moved that Jane Esau serve an additional year as chair of the Worship Committee; seconded by Barb Thimm. Motion passed.

The **Devotion Schedule** for 2022 Church Board meetings was distributed.

OLD BUSINESS

♦Don Esau moved to **approve the minutes** of the December 2021 meeting; seconded by Vern Jantzen. Motion passed on voice vote.

Technology Update:

1. **Website:** Vicki Frerking reported that the initial mock-up of the proposed website was discussed with the SOCS representative. Dan Kunzman is working with several FMC members to develop content.
2. **Church Streaming License:** The church currently has a streaming license with CCLI but the majority of the songs in the Voices Together hymnal are not covered by CCLI. After some research, it was determined that One License covers many of the songs in the new hymnal and it's much more user friendly to report songs. We currently pay \$331 for a yearly license with CCLI to reprint and live stream the songs that they cover. The cost for a license with One License is \$405 per year for reprinting and streaming, with more songs covered. ♦Vern Jantzen moved to not renew our license with CCLI when it comes due February 28, 2022 and get a license with One License; seconded by Jane Esau. Motion passed on voice vote.
3. **Streaming interruptions:** The service on January 16 was of poor quality with alot of static and then was totally interrupted. We have since had Diode password protect the 5G and 2.4 networks. This should protect the band width necessary to live stream. It appears there is still an unsecured network ("FMC unsecured") available that is still being investigated. Members are asked to please not use the FMC networks for their personal devices while at church.
4. **Distributing recordings of the service:** Currently there is one DVD recording being made for distribution. At some point in the future we may need to change how this recording is stored and distributed for viewing, such as using a jump drive rather than a DVD. The current system is working so the topic is tabled until a later time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Review of the Annual Meeting:

1. **Sanctuary repair, painting and exterior maintenance:** Marv Goossen took the bids for the project and will be contacted regarding which rooms are covered in the bid for painting; will the inside and outside work be done at the same time or will the outside maintenance wait until next year to help with the budget; and a time frame for the work.
2. **The dissolution of the Scholarship/Loan fund** with funds transferred to the FMC Tuition Fund: There are no outstanding loans at this time and \$7225 was transferred from the Scholarship/Loan fund to the Tuition Fund.
3. **Budget:** It was noted that the amount budgeted for the new Website is not enough but for the budget to be changed, a new vote of the congregation would have to take place so it will remain as is, but will just show that we were over budget on next year's financial report.

Election of Church Board Secretary: ♦Don Esau nominated Barb Thimm to serve as Church Board Secretary and nominations cease; Vern Jantzen seconded. Motion passed on voice vote.

Schedule of Speakers:

1. **Dr. David Boshart**, AMBS President will speak on January 30. He will meet with the Search Committee on Saturday evening; lead Adult Sunday School on Sunday morning; speak at worship; and meet with several persons at lunch who have been identified as potential lay speakers in the future if a resident pastor is not secured. He will stay with John and Zella Penner.
2. **BCH and Hospice Chaplain Sharon Schuster** will speak on February 27.
3. **Sandra Montes-Martinez**, Annual Study Series speaker, will speak on March 27. This is being held jointly with Summit Street Church in Beatrice and details are being worked on.
4. **Lyle Miller** of Everence will speak on April 24.

COVID update: Chair Zimmerman gave a report on the prevalence of the Omicron variant circulating in the area at this time. Schools in the area have been forced to limit classes due to staff shortages. Pastor Roger reported that several churches in Kansas are going remote again and some are requiring masks and social distancing. It was the consensus of the board that most of FMC attendees are vaccinated and there will be no further precautions taken. Services remain available in the parking lot and online for those not wanting to attend in person. Masks are encouraged, not required.

Special Session of MC USA Delegate Assembly, May 27-30, 2022, Kansas City, MO: A special session will be held and FMC can send three delegates. Items being determined at the Assembly are of utmost importance. A series of Zoom educational webinars are being held to prepare delegates for the special session. FMC will ask for volunteers to attend the assembly. If anyone is willing to go, they should speak to Dorothy Zimmerman or Pastor Roger.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

He reported that the Young Adult Retreat is January 21-23 at the Lied Lodge in Nebraska City. 25 people are going. Brett and Cassie Klingenberg are the guest speakers for the sessions. As Pastor Brett signed a Covenant of Understanding when he left FMC, Western District Conference was contacted to see if it is alright for him to lead the retreat. He may do so as long as the intent is not that he is serving as the attendee's pastor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mission, Peace & Service Council: Jim and Vicki Ensz and Marv and Lisa Goossen are currently away serving on a MDS project so there is no report.

Worship Council: Jane reported that the new Decorating Committee member is Robbyn Hohensee. She joins Leslie Trantham and Linsey Schardt. They met today and discussed if permission is needed to show minors on the live stream and are making plans to assist Pastor with Lent services. They will meet again on February 17.

Education Council: They met today. Peace Club will begin February 9 for eight sessions, Sunday School is in session, and plans are being made for Vacation Bible School.

Building Committee: Don Jantzen will consult Marv with the questions asked earlier about the sanctuary painting and exterior repairs.

Central Treasurer: ♦Don Esau moved to approve the financial reports as presented; Vern Jantzen seconded the motion which passed on voice vote.

OTHER ITEMS:

Ruth Shepherd: There will not be a service for Ruth Shepherd at this time. Ruth was not a member and had requested no service be held for her.

Financial signers on bank records: The signature records need to be updated at the bank so ♦ Vern Jantzen, Deacon for First Mennonite, moved that Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Ross Reimer, Don Esau and Mike Goossen be authorized to act on behalf of First Mennonite Church, Beatrice, Nebraska; Mike Goossen be given all powers listed in the authorization; Vicki Hinz-Ensz be authorized to sign checks and make wire transfers; Ross Reimer and Don Esau be authorized to sign checks. Mike Goossen and Ross Reimer are given authority for the main church checking account. Vicki Hinz-Ensz and Don Esau are given authority for the Trust Fund. Motion seconded by Barb Thimm, Chairman of the Education Council. Motion passed 7-0 on a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further items, Chair Zimmerman adjourned the meeting with prayer at 9:45 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