

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH BOARD MINUTES – June 18, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chair Dorothy Zimmerman. The lamp was lit by Pastor Brett signifying God's presence and guidance over the meeting. Present were board members Dorothy Zimmerman, Bryan Heinz, Mike Goossen, Erin Vanderschaaf, Barb Thimm, Vern Jantzen, Lori Thimm, Jim Ensz, Jerry Reimer, Pastor Brett Klingenberg and Administrative Assistant Vicki Frerking. Vern Jantzen led devotions.

The May minutes were approved as presented.

Dorothy updated the board on current COVID-19 cases in our area and the CDC recommendations. Our area is moving into Phase 3 on June 22 of re-opening things in Nebraska.

Discussion was held regarding the safe guidelines for worship used last Sunday as we returned to worship in church for the first time since March. Everyone felt they worked fairly well. There was discussion on wearing masks. Masks are encouraged and will be provided at the entrances for those who don't have one along. Singing hymns will be discontinued for the present time. The hymn verses will be played and the congregation is encouraged to reflect on the verses instead of singing them. Family groups will be ushered out beginning in the back of the church. Another group will not be ushered out until the preceding group has gone outside. The speakers will remain outside for those wishing to attend from the parking lot. Services will continue to be available on face book live. These practices will be evaluated monthly at the church board meetings. Pastor Brett will provide anointing as people exit the church this Sunday. There was a suggestion of holding Communion more frequently which will be discussed further at the next board meeting after board members have gotten opinions from the church family.

Mosaic has resumed their cleaning schedule as the church is open again.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Klingenberg Family Farewell:** Erin Vanderschaaf reported that plans are coming along. It will be held at the Klingenberg Farm with a lunch following. Kathy Neufeld Dunn, Conference Minister, will be attending and addressing the congregation.
2. **WDC Virtual Conference Sessions:** The WDC Annual Assembly will be a virtual event on August 1-2. Anyone can participate in the virtual conference at no fee. Delegates must pay. FMC has not had anyone volunteer to be a delegate.
3. **Camp-in-a-Box:** Pastor Brett has contacted parents who wish to have their camp registered child receive a box and t-shirt. The boxes will be shipped to the child's address and the church will be billed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Exit Interview and Exit Agreement for Pastor Brett:** The interview will be conducted by the Deacons and will be shared with the Search Committee. The Exit Agreement will be made public to the congregation, but not at his farewell. It will be emailed to church families and presented sometime this summer at a worship service.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Missions, Peace and Service Council: No report.

Worship Committee: They are planning worship for the interim Sundays until Roger Neufeld Smith begins and for the Sunday he will have off each month. The speakers will remain outside during summer worship for those not wanting to attend in the building due to the Pandemic.

Education Council: SYF would like to meet with Peace Club for a shared activity this summer if DHM guidelines allow and parents consent.

Pastor's Report:

1. ▲Vern moved to have Pastor Brett Klingenberg's name removed as a signer on the Junior Youth Fellowship checking account and replace him with Church Treasurer Mike Goossen. Motion seconded by Jim Ensz. Motion passed on voice vote.
2. Brett has discussed pastoral care of the shut-ins with Pastor Roger Smith.
3. Kathy Neufeld Dunn, Conference Minister, and Roger Neufeld Smith, future interim pastor, have consented to Pastor Brett performing Austin Goossen's wedding later this summer, which would not have been in accordance with the Exit Agreement.

Building Committee: The railing should be completed soon.

Central Treasurer's Report:

1. The reports were presented.
2. The remaining balance on the basement carpet fund account will be taken from Undesignated Funds.
3. It was noted that Everence has assigned Kent Blossom from Iowa City, IA as our new Everence agent, as Homer Friesen isn't a registered agent with Everence.

INTERIM PASTOR:

1. Roger Neufeld Smith will officially begin at First Mennonite on August 23.
2. Guest speakers through July and early August are:
 - a. July 5: Doug & Raylene Hinz-Penner on the Religious Awakening in Cuba
 - b. July 12: Homestead Harmonizers
 - c. July 19: Sharon Schuster, Hospital and Hospice Chaplain
 - d. July 26: Olivia Bartels of Camp Mennoscah
 - e. August 2: Dan Boschart, relief pastor for Pastor Matt Troyer-Miller of Wood River Mennonite Church
 - f. August 9: Dylan Dell-Haro of the Church of the Brethren of Holmesville
 - g. August 16: unscheduled at this time
3. During these services the Deacons will conduct the Sharing and Prayer time and Worship Council will plan the worship service.
4. Tracy Crawford has graciously offered a 2 bedroom apartment for Roger Neufeld Smith to use free of charge during his time at FMC. The Church Board accepted his offer.

Chair Zimmerman thanked Pastor Brett for his 9 years of serving at First Mennonite Church. He has been an inspiring pastor to the church family and will be missed.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer 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 July 16 at 7 p.m. - Respectfully submitted, Vicki Frerking, Administrative Assistant