

## Church Board Meeting, June 16, 2022, 7 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Deacon Vern Jantzen in the absence of Chair Dorothy Zimmerman. The lamp was lit symbolizing Christ's presence over the meeting. Present were Pastor Roger Neufeld Smith, Vern Jantzen, Don Esau, Jim and Vicki Ensz, Barb Thimm, Don Jantzen, and Administrative Assistant Vicki Frerking. Mike Goossen, Dorothy Zimmerman, and Jane Esau were absent.

### OLD BUSINESS

1. The **May minutes** were approved as presented.
2. **Technology Update:**
  - a) New **Website** (SOCS): No report
  - b) **Technology contacts** for help with technology: Discussion yielded these four people as those to contact when there are problems with technology: Pam Kunzman, Van Vanderschaff, Vicki Hinz-Ensz, and possibly the prospective new pastor Josh Janzen.
3. Plans for **Roger's farewell**: Barb reported that she and Jane are planning a pot luck for Roger's last day of preaching, August 21. More information will come later.
4. **Offering and Music**: It was decided at the May meeting that we would again begin passing the offering plate June 19. Questions have come up about the copy rights to the music played during offering. Possible solutions are to pass the plate during a congregational hymn or continue to have the offering plate available at the church entrance. There was discussion on whether we need to begin passing the offering plate again. When the new website is available, there will be a donation button on it. People are now used to giving either on their way in or out. This will be further **discussed at a later meeting** but for now, the offering plate will not be passed.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. **Schedule of Speakers:**
  - a) June 26: MDS report on their work and mission presented by those involved with MDS
  - b) July 24:
  - c) July 31: Pastor Sarah Schlegel, Salem Mennonite Church, Shickley, NE
  - d) August 28
2. **Report on MC USA Conference**: Delegate Jim Ensz gave a report last Sunday in church. Handouts will be put in mailboxes this week regarding the four resolutions addressed there.
3. **Covid Update**: Vern reported that according to Public Health Services the incidence rate in Gage and Jefferson Counties is low so no changes will be made to the current protocol.
4. **Pastoral Candidate Josh Janzen:**
  - a) Katie Jantzen will **formally recommend Candidate Josh Janzen** to be the next permanent pastor at FMC on Sunday, June 19. A congregational ballot vote will be taken following that worship service. Tellers will be chosen by Dorothy Zimmerman. Several members have inquired from Deacons if absentee ballots will be allowed. In researching the history of past votes, absentee ballots are not allowed. This needs to be addressed and specified in the constitution and/or bylaws.
  - b) Mike Goossen, Vern Jantzen and Lori Thimm went over the **Covenant of Understanding** with Candidate Josh to determine his salary and benefits.
5. **Church Picnic**: The picnic will be held Sunday, September 11 at the Tabernacle in Chautauqua Park. Plans will be finalized later.
6. **Camp Fund**: ■ Don Esau moved to pay registration fees for all campers attending Mennonite church camps; Barb Thimm seconded. Motion passed. This will be funded by donations to the camp fund and the general fund.

### REPORTS

#### Pastor Roger's Report:

1. **He thanked everyone** for their messages of sympathy following his mother's death a few days ago. He will not preach on Sunday, but will administer Communion. He'll leave shortly after the service is over at 11:30 Sunday. The Deacons will commune the shut-ins.
2. He asked for **suggestions on themes** for the last months of his ministry here. (His last Sunday preaching is August 21.) It was suggested that he focus on transitions.

**Mission, Peace & Service Council:**

1. Jim Ensz reported that about 11 FMC members went to Wymore on Monday to help clean up following the tornado there last weekend. They put in about 90 hours of work and hauled 68 truckloads of debris doing this **MDS work close to home.**
2. He presented information on how First Mennonite could **assist the new immigrant families in our community** in getting established. Each household would appreciate a 'grocery drop-off' during the third week of each of the months of June, July, and August. Doing this will give us an opportunity to briefly meet them when you drop the groceries by as well as give them encouragement as they are working hard to provide for their families. Jim will put a signup sheet on the bulletin board to schedule the drop offs for those who are interested in helping. Suggestions of what they can use will be in the bulletin.

**Worship Council:** No report.

**Education Council:**

1. **VBS** went very well.
2. She and Jane are planning **Pastor Roger's farewell.**
3. The Council **will meet on July 21** at 6 p.m.

**Building Council:**

1. The **new fans** have been installed in the sanctuary.
2. ■Jim Ensz moved that the Building Committee should **replace the sanctuary lights with LED lights;** seconded by Don Esau. Motion passed.
3. **The Exterior work** on the church is scheduled.

**Central Treasurer's Report:** Mike communicated that he has withdrawn the \$50,325.06 from the Pastor's Housing Fund at Everence so it will be available if the permanent pastor purchases a home. ■Don Jantzen moved to invite the **congregation to make additional donations** to the Pastor's Housing Fund; seconded by Vicki Ensz. Motion passed.

**OTHER AGENDA ITEMS**

1. **Church cleaning** follow up:
  - a) The **recycling** in the basement storage room by the elevator needs to be taken into town more often. This will be added to the duties of the Building Committee.
  - b) The **kitchen floor** needs to be cleaned more often. Mosaic cleaning crew will be asked if they can do this on a monthly basis.
2. Reading the **water meter** monthly will be added to the Building Committee's responsibilities.
3. The **pump organ** being stored in the music room behind the chancel area would like to find a new home. The organ was purchased in 1899 for \$120. There was a great deal of opposition at first from those who felt the new instrument was worldly and would distract from the worship and from those who preferred the church music to not change. (from God's Love in Action by the Centennial Book Committee).

With no further items, Deacon Jantzen adjourned the meeting with prayer at 9:40 p.m. 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 Thursday, July 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Frerking, Administrative Assistant