

First Mennonite Church Board Minutes - March 19, 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, Pastor Brett Klingenberg, Jerry Reimer, Lori Thimm, Vern Jantzen, Mike Goossen, Barb Thimm, Jim Ensz, and Administrative Assistant Vicki Frerking. Erin Vanderschaaf and Bryan Heinz were absent.

Lori Thimm led the group in devotions.

OLD BUSINESS:

The minutes of the February meeting stand approved as presented.

Mission Partner Update: Jim Ensz reported that he has been in contact with the Stutzman's, letting them know they are welcome to come to FMC at any time for a visit. They will keep FMC's invitation in mind when they are able to plan U.S. visits.

NEW BUSINESS:

COVID-19 Response and Planning: It is the consensus of the board that all activities, Sunday and mid-week included, be suspended through April 1, 2020 due to the pandemic and according to current recommendations of the CDC and Governor Ricketts. A board meeting will be held on April 2, 2020 at 7 p.m. to reevaluate the current situation and discuss appropriate measures at that time.

Members will be encouraged to continue their weekly offerings as they are able for First Mennonite Church and the other entities it supports through Sunday offerings by mailing them in to the church, with a notation of whether the offering is for general fund or another organization. The Finance Committee will continue to deposit the offerings as usual. Members are also encouraged to use their online banking bill pay to make their offerings.

Our funeral policy, if needed, will be in accordance with current regulations of the funeral homes, and in consideration of the family's wishes. Options are graveside services for immediate family only in accordance with the ten person gathering mandate or services at a later date. No funeral lunches will be served.

Cleaning services from Mosaic will be suspended during the current pandemic.

Vacation Bible School Committee is instructed to continue planning in the event VBS may be held, but possibly moving it to later in the summer, depending on current recommendations.

Pastor Brett is exploring options for worship on Sundays via a YouTube video. Members will be emailed links to online resources they may use for Sunday School for children and adults.

Prayer Requests: Members are to call or email Pastor Brett with their prayer requests to be included in the bulletin. Bulletins will be emailed to members as well as being available on the website. For those without email, hard copies will be mailed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Missions, Peace and Service Committee: See Jim's report above.

Worship Council: No report.

Education Council: Barb Thimm reports that the Sunday School materials workshop planned for April 25 by has been cancelled. Her committee will begin planning for Summer Sunday School in consultation with Vicki Hinz-Ensz and Shana Ensz. The VBS Committee will be instructed to continue planning for VBS.

Pastor's Report: He reported that he and the Deacons met last evening, March 18, with the Catechism class in preparation for their Baptisms on Easter, April 26.

Building Committee: No report.

Central Treasurer: The usual expenses and income were reported with the addition of a donation of \$1000 for the general fund from Don and June Diller in appreciation of the funeral service for their son, Randy.

Interim Pastor Search:

Dorothy has been in contact with Candidate Roger Neufeld Smith who is available to serve as interim pastor at FMC beginning mid August. She distributed an agreement she will propose to Pastor Smith.

Worship services for June, July and part of August will need to be planned. Homestead Harmonizers are scheduled for July 12. Camp Menno'scah Director would like to come for a service during June. Discussion was held on who would or could serve as worship coordinators and leaders for the remainder of the summer Sundays. There was also discussion on who would conduct funeral services during that time if the need arises.

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. A special meeting will be held April 2 at 7 p.m., possibly via ZOOM. The next regular monthly meeting will be Thursday, April 16 at 7:00 p.m. Barb Thimm will lead devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Frerking, Administrative Assistant