

First Mennonite Church Board Minutes – March 17, 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, Barb Thimm, Mike Goossen, Don and Jane Esau, Jim Ensz, and Administrative Assistant Vicki Frerking. Vicki Ensz was absent. Don Esau led devotions on "Hope for a Troubled World".

Old Business

1. The **February minutes** were approved as presented.
2. There was no news on the progress of the **new website** being developed by SOCS.
3. **Technology Update:** Pam Kunzman will be advised to purchase the portable handheld camera to use for events out of the sanctuary. This purchase was previously approved. The Technology Committee would like the board to determine how long recorded services need to be archived on the computer or if they are necessary at all in light of the fact that they are available indefinitely on You Tube. The Board decided that they should continue to record the services and **archive them for one year** on the office computer.
4. **MC USA Special Session Delegate:** John Regier has volunteered to be a delegate for the assembly in Kansas City, Missouri on May 27-30. FMC will pay his registration fee of \$250.
5. **Sanctuary Repair and painting:** discussion was held on whether the ceiling of the sanctuary needs to be repaired and completely repainted with acoustical paint or if only the bad areas need repaired and repainted with matching non-acoustical paint. Plans for timing of the work were also discussed in regards to Easter, Vacation Bible School, and a funeral tentatively planned for June 8. Building Committee Chair Don Jantzen will be in contact with Marv Goossen and Shawn VanLaningham in regards to these questions as well as the possibility of painting Sunday School rooms and the nursery room and the estimated changes in cost these things may require.
6. **Interim Pastor Search:** Dorothy Zimmerman has been touch with WDC minister Kathy Neufeld Dunn who said there may be candidates coming available to fill FMC's interim vacancy after Pastor Roger's interim ends in August.
7. **The Cemetery Committee** has given permission to Vern Fast's sister, Viola Juhnke, to **plant a tree** on the perimeter of the cemetery in Vern's memory.

New Business:

1. **Schedule of Speakers** on Roger's Sunday's off.
 - a. March 27: Annual Study Series with Sondra Montes-Martinez
 - b. April 24: Lyle Miller of Everence
 - c. May 29: Presentation by those who recently worked with Mennonite Disaster Service
2. **COVID Update:** Dorothy reported that the incidence of COVID presently is very low. It may be that a new variant will make it necessary to revisit precautions in the future.

Pastor Roger's Report:

- a. Pastor Roger reported on the **Annual Study Series** on March 27 being held with Summit Street Church, featuring guest speaker WDC Associate Minister Sondra Montes-Martinez. The morning worship service will be at 9:30 a.m. at Summit Street. Our ushers will provide FMC attendees

with a marked envelope for FMC to be used for offering and a bulletin containing the weekly news. Sunday School will follow for adults with another session with Sondra. Children will attend Sunday School led by Summit Street. A Sunday evening session will be held at First Mennonite at 7 p.m. with an offering taken to offset Sondra's expenses. MCC My Coins Count will also be collected at the evening session. This session will be live streamed on FMC's YouTube channel. A follow up virtual session will be held Sunday evening, April 3 at 7:00 p.m. with a live discussion on Zoom. This session will be recorded and posted on both church's websites so people may access them when convenient. It will be noted in announcements that Summit St Church is strongly encouraging masks.

- b. **Worship Planning for time the sanctuary isn't available** due to repairs and painting: He is working with the Worship Committee on these plans but it's hard to plan when dates and time frame aren't cemented.

Committee Reports:

1. **Mission, Peace and Service Council:** Chair Jim Ensz brought up the possibility of **sponsoring an immigrant Ukrainian family**. Discussion ensued. Jim will gather information to present to the board.
2. **Worship Council:** Chair Jane Esau said they've begun to plan for services that will be held out of the sanctuary during repairs/painting. This may include a normal order of service with individual themes which could be followed with informal conversations and presentations.
3. **Education Council:** Chair Barb Thimm reported that there are two more Peace Club meetings. There will be no Sunday School this summer. VBS plans and registration have begun.
4. **Building Committee:** Chair Don Jantzen reported **that Handicap Parking signs** need to be replaced. Vicki Frerking will order those. For information about church repairs and painting, see above, Old Business, 5. He also reported that the lights in the sign and spotlights on the church are working again.
5. **Central Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Mike Goossen reported that the expenses for the month were fairly normal. He did point out that general fund offerings were down considerably from a year ago.
▲ Don Esau moved to approve the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Vern Jantzen. Motion passed.

With no further items, Chair Zimmerman adjourned the meeting with prayer at 9:05 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, April 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Frerking, Administrative Assistant