

First Mennonite Church Board Minutes - May 20, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Dorothy Zimmerman. Present were Dorothy Zimmerman, Lori Thimm, Don Esau, Vern Jantzen, Jim Ens, Marv Goossen, Jane Esau, Pastor Roger Neufeld Smith, Barb Thimm, and guest Pam Kunzman. Absent were Mike Goossen and administrative assistant, Vicki Frerking. Devotions were led by Jane Esau.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The minutes of the April board meeting were approved as read.
2. Pam Kunzman was present to give an update for the Technology Committee. Obviously we need good internet access, and the committee has looked into different options. The best would be fiber optics, but until that becomes a viable option, Pam suggested buying a Myfy cellular modem with a good video camera. The goal would be to use one camera for both the DVD video and the service video for Facebook. The modem would be mobile so could be used in other areas of the church. The modem would cost \$200 with a \$10 per month fee unless we feel like we need more gigabytes, then maybe \$15 per month. They are waiting on Midwest Sound and Lighting to come and give an estimate on equipment we would need, and will find out what video camera they would recommend. It was suggested we get the modem now so it would be ready when we decide on the camera. Cameras would cost anywhere from \$600 - \$700.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Covid 19 update:** Positive cases continue to decline in Gage County and Public Health Solutions counties. We have moved into the middle high green zone which is low risk. The CDC has recommended that face masks do not need to be worn indoors or outdoors if you are fully vaccinated. With these recommendations in mind and the declining COVID cases in Gage County, it was decided to remove more restrictions and return to normal activities with a few modifications:
 - a. People do not need to wear a face mask when attending either indoor or outdoor church services or activities beginning Sunday, May 23. People should feel free to continue to wear a mask if they wish to.
 - b. People may sing without wearing a mask.
 - c. Greeters and hosts may shake hands or fist bump and hand out bulletins instead of placing them in the pews.
 - d. Social activities can resume in the Fellowship Hall with the following guidelines:
 1. Use pre-packaged food when possible and not extraordinarily costly.
 2. Make sandwiches and salads at church instead of in individual homes.
 3. When serving cookies or other pastries, lay out the food item on a napkin or have someone serve it to guests instead of having people reach into a box or package to pick up a food item.
 - e. We will continue to have the offering plates in the narthex for the time being. This will help shorten the worship service so we use less cellular data as we continue to transmit our worship service on Facebook live.

It **was moved by Lori Thimm** to make these changes, seconded by Don Esau and the motion passed by voice vote.

2. WDC and MC USA Representatives: No one has expressed interest in attending these conferences as a delegate. Pastor Roger said he would look into attending in person or virtually himself.

3. Schedule of speakers on Roger's Sunday's off:

- a. June 6 - VBS
- b. July 11 - Dorothy Zimmerman, Chuck Erickson, and Precious Chisebuka
(Mumba) - Christ's Love in Zambia
- c. Aug. 8 - Mark Jantzen
- d. Sept. 12 - Mosaic maybe?

PASTOR'S REPORT:

1. Pastor Roger reported that he and his wife Cynthia are working on the new hymnal launch on June 13.
2. This summer he will be preaching on Psalms of orientation, disorientation, and reorientation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mission, Peace and Service Council: They are looking forward to Dorothy and Dr. Erickson's presentation on Zambia.

Worship Council: They continue to help with organizing the hymnal launch on June 13 and working with Roger on planning Sunday services.

Education Council: VBS is ready to go. The Council is looking into what to do with SYF and JYF going forward because of low numbers.

Building Committee: The carpet for the outside steps is in at Jim's Carpet but they won't be able to install it until Aug. It will cost \$1082.

Central Treasurer's Report: There was nothing unusual to report. **Vern Jantzen moved to approve** the report; seconded by Marv Goossen. Motion passed by voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS: Pastor Roger will talk to Vicki F. about getting someone here to tune the organ before June 13. Lori reported for the Pastor Search Committee that they are following up on a few MLI's (ministerial leadership information) that they have received.

Adjournment: With no further business brought before the board, the meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer. The next meeting will be on June 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Thimm, church board secretary.