

First Mennonite Church board Minutes – November 16, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Vicki Hinz-Ensz. The lamp was lit by Pastor Brett, signifying God's presence and guidance over the meeting. Rita Friesen led the group in devotions. Present were Board members Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Jerry Reimer, Lori Thimm, Vern Jantzen, Pastor Brett Klingenberg, Ross Reimer, Merlin and Rita Friesen, Lisa Goossen Larry Thimm, and Administrative Assistant Vicki Frerking. No one was absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The **October board minutes** were approved as presented.
2. **Church Board Retreat:** Vicki Frerking will register those attending the retreat to WDC Year of Evangelism Kick-Off at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church in Goessel, KS on January 19 and 20. Board members attending will make their own overnight arrangements.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. There has been a request to **purchase lighter weight long tables** to replace the extremely heavy wooden ones which are difficult to move up and down the stairs. Vicki Ensz will order two of these tables.
2. **Deacon Election:** A notice will be in the bulletin stating Jerry Reimer is eligible for reelection. For other nominees, members should check with their nominee before talking to Chair Ensz.
3. The congregation should notify Chair Ensz with any **agenda items** for the January 10, 2018 Annual meeting.
4. **MPSC Chair Resignation:** Merlin Friesen informed the board he is submitting his resignation from the Missions, Peace, and Service Council effective this evening. The board accepted his resignation by consensus with regret and appreciation for his service. Someone will be appointed to fill his remaining term. Merlin feels a MPSC Council Chair is not needed to oversee the missions and groups represented on that council. A change to the by-laws would be needed to eliminate the MPS Council Chair position. This discussion will be put on the Annual Meeting Agenda with a possible proposed change to the By-laws. The church board can appoint someone to this position to fill the remaining two years for this position if needed. This will be discussed more at the December Church Board meeting.
5. The **proposed 2018 budget** was reviewed. There was much discussion regarding the cemetery expenses. At the January 27, 1993 Annual Church Business meeting it was determined that the grounds custodian is to calculate his time for upkeep of the cemetery for the yearly cost (cemetery maintenance costs) which is to be paid from the earnings of the perpetual cemetery fund, if the earnings are enough to cover it. If not, the balance is to be paid by FMC (67%) and BMC (33%). In recent years there has been enough interest from the cemetery perpetual fund to pay the maintenance (mowing and gas) costs. There are some who would like to see the By-laws changed so as not to use interest from the perpetual fund to pay these costs and mower repair costs. Our cemetery committee (Lawrence Reimer, Norman Reimer and Duane Claassen) will meet with the BMC cemetery committee member (Ron Wiens) to discuss this and bring a proposal to the Board if a change to the By-laws is recommended.
6. **Administrative Evaluation:** Pastor Brett will meet with the administrative assistant for a review (in a conversation format) to see if there are any questions or concerns that need to be addressed and to offer her support and appreciation for her work. The salary for the administrative assistant will be increased to \$17/hour.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Missions, Peace and Service Council: See discussion above under New Business, item 4.

Worship Council: They are planning Advent services.

Education Council: They met this evening.

1. The Children's Christmas program will be December 10 during the worship service.
2. JYF Leaders: Vicki Hinz-Ensz and Cassie Klingenberg have volunteered to lead JYF.
3. SYF Sponsors: Scott & Keri Janssen have volunteered to lead SYF activities.
4. It's been suggested that the Junior Sunday School Superintendent job title/description be change to Resource Leader, a position that would be appointed by the church board, to oversee children's education, Preschool through Sr. High. This would not be a teaching position. This will be on the December agenda.
5. They are proposing a By-law change in the makeup of the VBS committee. This will be on the December agenda.

Pastor's Report:

1. The Annual Study Series will be March 18-19, 2018 with Pastor Brad Roth of West Zion Mennonite Church, Mound Ridge, KS speaking on Rural Evangelism.
2. Missional Breakfasts will be held following the January church board retreat.
3. He will be gone December 14-18 to Florida for a wedding.
4. He is working on the Christmas Eve service, "Bethlehem Speaks".

Building Committee:

1. Plymouth Electric is working on some electrical issues: attic lights, electric lines for the organ, and the elevator light.
2. He has called Architectural Glass about the church windows. They said they would be coming in 2-3 weeks. The contract was signed two years ago without a completion date.
3. A water leak in the nursery bathroom has been fixed.
4. They will address salary increases for the custodians and groundskeeper.

Central Treasurer's Report:

1. October receipts vs. expenses are -\$4171.00. The yearly property insurance for 2018 was paid in October in the amount of \$7,546.
2. Meat canning donations should be turned in to him by December 10.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer. The next meeting will be Thursday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Vicki Frerking, Administrative Assistant