

First Mennonite Church Board Minutes – October 19, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chair Vicki Hinz-Ensz. The lamp was lit by Pastor Brett signifying God's presence and guidance over the meeting. Present were board members Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Jerry Reimer, Lori Thimm, Ross Reimer, Dorothy Zimmerman, Pastor Brett Klingenberg, Vern Jantzen, Marci Reimer, and Administrative Assistant Vicki Frerking. Devotions were led by Pastor Brett on God's intention for us to live in interdependence and community, not independently.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Dorothy Zimmerman moved to approve the September minutes as presented; seconded by Vern Jantzen. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Search Committee** appointment discussion: Discussion was held on when and how to select this committee. The church Bylaws state the congregation shall select five members to serve on this committee. It doesn't specify how they are selected but they should be an intentional, diverse representation of the congregation. WDC Conference Minister Kathy Neufeld Dunn will give guidance to the board later in the evening on the preferred process and timeline for forming a Search Committee.
2. **Handbook** job description updates for use by Nominating Committee: Committee chairs have been contacted about updating their job descriptions prior to the Nominating Committee meeting in November. This should be done annually.
3. **2020 Offering** Schedule: Tabled until the November meeting.
4. **2020 Dates** for Annual Meeting and Cottage Prayer meetings: The Annual Meeting will be January 8 and Shepherd Group Cottage Prayer meetings will be January 12.
5. **2020 Budget** Requests: The Education, Building, and Worship Committees/Councils are to have their budget requests to Ross Reimer by November 1.
6. **Nominating Committee Appointees**: Several names were suggested as possible appointees to this committee. Vicki Hinz-Ensz will contact them to see if they are willing to serve.
7. **Upstairs Store Room**: Lori Thimm moved to convert the room at the east end of the upstairs hallway to a storage room; seconded by Ross Reimer. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Missions, Peace and Service Council**: Dorothy discussed the guidelines and purpose of the MPS Council. She would like the board to email her with ideas on how this council should function.
2. **Worship Council**: No report.
3. **Education Council**: They met on Tuesday evening. The Christmas Program is being planned for Sunday, December 15 during the worship service. Practices will be December 1 and 8 at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School teachers are still being sought. The Fall Sunday School term will end November 24. Peace Club and Prayer Partners will have a dinner on November 6 to end their fall session.
4. **Pastor's Report**: He and the Deacons are meeting on October 18 to form new Shepherd Groups.
5. **Building Committee**: No report.
6. **Treasurer's Report**: No unusual expenditures to report this month.

In regard to Pastor Brett Klingenberg's resignation effective the end of May, 2020, WDC Conference Minister Kathy Neufeld Dunn addressed the Board on:

- process and timeline for establishing a search committee
- completing a congregational assessment of expectations and needs
- decision regarding using an interim or transitional minister following Pastor Brett's departure and until a new permanent pastor is in place
- details and guidelines of search committee's steps for finding a new pastor

The Church Board will discuss this information at their next board meeting and will set a date for a congregation informational meeting to share the process with the congregation.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned and 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 November 21 at 7 p.m.