

First Mennonite Church Board Minutes – September 16, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Dorothy Zimmerman. The candle was lit, representing God's presence over the meeting. Present were Dorothy Zimmerman, Lori Thimm, Vern Jantzen, Don Esau, Pastor Roger Neufeld Smith, Barb Thimm, Jim Ensz, Marv Goossen, Jane Esau, and Admin. Assist Vicki Frerking. Mike Goossen was absent. Devotions were led by Marv Goossen.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Vern Jantzen moved to **approve the minutes** from the August meeting. Included in the motion was **approval of the notes** from the Special Online Church Board Action to approve the recommendation from the Technology Committee from September 4; seconded by Marv Goossen. Motion passed, approving both reports.
2. **The recommendation from the Technology Committee** was reviewed as it will be presented to the congregation on Sunday, September 19 for approval. This recommendation and congregational vote will be for Phase 1 at a cost of approximately \$14,800:
 - a) Run network cables to the balcony and basement for internet connection.
 - b) Allow Midwest Sound and Lighting to install two cameras and streaming equipment to connect to current audio system per their quote of \$12,170.
 - c) Purchase an additional mobile camera to record church activities outside the sanctuary at approximate \$450.
 - d) Purchase a Smart TV and cart for the basement at approximately \$1,000 to \$2,000.Funding for Phase 1 would come from the Technology Fund, plus any new donations to the Technology Fund, and the remainder from Undesignated Funds. The motion to be presented to the congregation: "To move ahead with Phase 1 as specified on the recommendation at an estimated cost of \$14,800 with funding coming from the Technology Fund (\$6055), any new donations to the Technology Fund, and the remainder to be paid from undesignated funds." The Technology Committee members of Pam and Dan Kunzman, Brett Esau, Bryan Heinz, LeRoy Janzen, Neal Trantham, Van Vanderschaaf and Vicki Ensz were thanked for their work on the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **The COVID 19** risk dial remains in the orange, meaning high risk. It was discussed if there needs to be changes to the precautions being taken in church. The feeling of the board was to keep things as they are at this time. Masking is optional as most in the congregation have been vaccinated. Hand sanitizer is available throughout the church. Pastor will begin greeting following the service outside until the weather prohibits it as this may decrease the congregating in the narthex.
2. **The schedule of speakers** on Pastor Roger's Sunday's away in the next few months was discussed. Pastor Tim Amor will be our guest speaker in October. In November, a video from Nate Stucky, Farminary Project Director from Princeton Theological Seminary will be shown. December plans are as of yet undetermined.
3. Suggestions were given for the **All Saints Day speaker** for November 7, 2021. Dorothy Zimmerman will contact one.

PASTORS REPORT

1. He is working on Cottage Prayer meeting topics.
2. Four Shepherds have consented to remain as Shepherds for an additional year as they didn't get to gather often in the past years due to COVID.
3. He will need to alter his usual Sunday's off in coming months due to family obligations. If he is gone when there is a Church Board meeting, he wonders if the meeting can be changed to a week he is here. The Board agreed to this.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Missions, Peace, and Service:

1. The Church Picnic is planned for September 26 at 5 p.m. at the Tabernacle in Chautauqua Park. The meal will be provided.
2. Big Give Gage, held last Tuesday, had Sewing 4 Babies and Mother to Mother Ministries among the non profits. The combined donations for all Gage County Nonprofits was in excess of \$310,000.
3. Five FMC couples will be going to a training event by MDS in November. They will share their experiences before the congregation sometime after that.

Worship Council: They met today. They are planning Advent services with Pastor Roger. Due to Roger being gone, there will not be a service on Christmas Eve this year. Members will be encouraged to worship at other churches.

Education Council:

1. Sunday School, Peace Club, and SYF/JYF have started and are going well. There are 18 children attending Peace Club. Last Sunday a breakfast was held for the Sunday School children and their grandparents for Grandparents Day.
2. Barb wondered if the heavy wooden banquet tables in the storage room could be disposed of. It was decided they will be auctioned at the Mini Auction.

Building Committee:

1. Marv is replacing the faucets in the kitchen.
2. He will check into whether the lights in the front of the chancel will need to be altered to accommodate the technology updates, if passed by the congregation on Sunday.

Central Treasurer: Marv Goossen moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented; seconded by Don Esau. Motion passed.

Search Committee: Lori reported that they continue to be in conversation with candidates.

Adjourn: With no further business, the lamp was extinguished signifying God does not remain in this building only but goes with us into the world. The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Frerking, Administrative Assistant