

FMC Church Board Meeting April 16, 2024

Chair Jerry Reimer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The lamp was lit symbolizing God's presence over the meeting. In attendance were Jerry Reimer, Sue Gerber, Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Don Esau, Pastors Josh Janzen and Sarah Neher, Dan Kunzman, Larry Thimm, Mike and Debbie Goossen, and Admin. Asst. Vicki Frerking. Neal Trantham was absent. Deb Goossen led devotions.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The **March Church Board meeting minutes** were accepted by consensus.
2. Pastor Josh reported on preliminary plans for the **WDC Annual Assembly** to be held at FMC August 2-4, 2024. He and Pastor Sarah are part of the WDC Annual Assembly Planning Committee and will relay more information as it's available. There will be a worship service on Friday evening in the sanctuary. The Delegate sessions (Saturday) will be zoomed. First Mennonite is allowed 8 delegates and it would be nice for FMC to have a nice representation at the Delegate Sessions. The assembly attendees will join FMC for worship on Sunday morning. Faith Formation and service activities will take place throughout the weekend.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Dan Kunzman reported on the **2024 NE MCC Sale**. FMC contributed \$18,341 from our mini auction held last October, \$3,418.31 from My Coins Count, \$4,170+ from selling 278 Windsor Loin/BBQ Chicken meals, plus the extra leftovers that were sold at the auction. This is \$25,929.31 in addition to all the bidding by FMC people at the auction. The preliminary amount reported raised at the sale is \$188,000, with the final numbers to be reported when available.
2. Don Esau reported that **next year's venue** for the sale is the Holthus Convention Center in York.

PASTORS REPORTS

Senior Pastor:

1. The Ministerial Association is planning the **Beatrice High School Baccalaureate Service** for May 15 at 7:00 p.m. A number of pastors will participate.
2. Pastor Josh recently attended the **AMBS Pastors and Leaders Conference** in Elkhart, Indiana with his mentor Wilmer Harder. Discussions centered on how to lead in a time of polarization and division while finding our calling as a peace church in the world today. He continues to mentor with Wilmer Harder monthly.
3. He will have a **pulpit exchange** on September 1 with one of the pastors from Bethesda.
4. He **expressed appreciation** for the support his family is receiving since fostering three little girls, especially as the whole family has been ill.

Pastor of Faith Formation:

1. Pastor Sarah has reviewed the **survey results** asking the congregation to identify FMC values, important topics, and programs. Currently she is holding four listening sessions for congregants to meet with her to discuss those items. She will report to the congregation on the compiled results.
2. The **Orange curriculum will be replaced** by the revised Mennonite Shine curriculum in 2024-2025. Several reasons for the change are Shine is the Mennonite curriculum, FMC has been asked to be in a pilot program for the revised curriculum, it is more user friendly and cost effective.
3. The junior and senior high youth will hold a **lock-in** on May 4 in preparation of their **May 5 Fiesta Fundraiser**.
4. Ideas for fall may include a **monthly intergenerational meal and activity**.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mission, Peace, & Service Council:

1. **Sewing for Babies** has received a large donation of fabric.
2. **Los Companeros** at this time seem settled for the most part and help is in the form of rides to and from Immigration appointments.

Worship Council:

1. Neal sent a report stating that the Lent and Easter week services were well received.
2. They are **suspending Children's Stories for the months of June, July, and August** again this year. If anyone wants to volunteer for a Sunday, please let the Worship Council know.

Education Council:

1. Debbie reported that there will be **Sunday School this summer** on the second and fourth Sundays in June and July and second Sunday of August. Pastor Sarah is planning these.
2. **Safe Church (previously Safe Sanctuary) training** is May 19 and will be recorded for anyone who can't attend.
3. There are **some new children's books** in the Library.
4. **VBS is asking for volunteers** from FMC and Summit Street Church to help with VBS.
5. **Teacher Appreciation** will be April 28.

Building Committee

1. Larry reported a problem with the **west entrance door** closing all the way. He's looking into it.
2. **Shingles were blown off** near the tower with the recent high winds. He is coordinating repairs.
3. The **trees for the cemetery south side** are Red Oaks and will be arriving next week. These trees are coming from the NRD. Extra trees will be planted elsewhere on the church property.
4. **Crushed rock** has been delivered to fill the holes in the parking lot.

Central Treasurer:

1. Mike presented the reports for the month of March. There were three general fund offerings in March which helped the deficit. **Monthly reports are published in the bulletin.** Members are encouraged to look at those.
2. **QuickBooks** has changed to a cloud based system with continuous updates. The monthly subscription for FMC will be \$37.50 for the first year and \$75 for following years. The transition between treasurers will be easier if the church has its own subscription.

Other Agenda items:

1. Mosaic found a **large coffee stain** in the sanctuary between the pews on the east side. This will need to be scrubbed/shampooed.
2. The **Prayer Blankets** that were in the office are available to be given to anyone who needs to know that they are wrapped in the prayers of the congregation. Please talk to a Deacon if you know of someone who needs one. The recipient will keep the blanket.

Adjourn

With no further business the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:35 p.m. The candle was extinguished signifying that God remains in this place and also goes with us into the world. The next meeting is Thursday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Vicki Frerking, Adm. Assistant