

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH BOARD MEETING – August 21, 2025, 7 pm FMC Church Basement

Chair Jerry Reimer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The lamp was lit symbolizing the presence of the Holy Spirit over the meeting. Attending were Jerry Reimer, Pastor Josh Jantzen, Pastor Sarah Reimer, Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Sue Gerber, Mike Goossen, Debbie Goossen, Doug Casey, Kathy Casey, Dan Kunzman, and Administrative Assistant Vicki Frerking. Don Esau was absent. Doug Casey led the group in devotions on Ephesians 4:31-32, encouraging God's people to be kind and forgiving, letting go of anger and hatred.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The **July meeting minutes** were declared correct.
2. ▼Debbie Goossen moved to accept a bid from Fairbury/Hamm Glass for \$4,014 to convert the east church door to a **handicap accessible door**; seconded by Sue Gerber. In discussion, it was noted that Anabaptist Disability Network has grants available up to \$500 for projects such as this. There will be other electrical work needed that is not included in the bid. Converting the door will align with the MC USA Safe Sanctuary policy. Motion passed unanimously. Jerry Reimer will apply for the ADN grant.
3. **WDC Annual Assembly Review**: FMC's delegates gave a good report of the assembly at worship last Sunday. WDC's financial situation was discussed at the assembly. Member congregations are encouraged to prayerfully consider their donations to Western District Conference. It was noted that First Mennonite holds six Sunday offerings for WDC which totaled approximately \$14,000 in 2024. The Assembly will be held in Dallas, TX next year.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Members of the **board reviewed** a compilation of the **congregation's questionnaire responses** received for the upcoming congregational vote to retain Pastor Josh for another three years.
2. ▼Dan Kunzman moved that after reviewing the congregation's questionnaire responses, **the board recommends that FMC retain Josh Janzen** as pastor for another three-year term; seconded by Vicki Hinz-Ensz. Motion passed unanimously. The motion will be relayed to the congregation at the meeting following worship on Sunday morning, August 24.

PASTORS' REPORTS

Senior Pastor Josh:

1. He will begin a **new sermon series** on the Beatitudes in September.
2. He attended the Nebraska Pastor Cluster meeting today.
3. He is **working ahead on worship** through Advent to help with his absence during his parental leave.

Pastor of Faith Formation Sarah:

1. This Sunday, August 24, is **Faith Formation Sunday**. Backpacks will be blessed, and Bibles will be presented to kindergarteners, third, and sixth graders.
2. Last Sunday, a **fall teacher resource event/work session** was held. Sunday School begins September 7.
3. **Wednesday night groups** (Peace Club, Jr. High and Sr. High) will begin on September 10. There will be separate Senior High and Junior High youth groups again.
4. She is requesting to be **gone on September 14** for a wedding. She will have things prepared for use in her absence.
5. **Baptism classes** will begin this fall for six youth this fall. Classes will be held during Sunday School time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mission, Peace, & Service Council: Dan reported on plans for the church picnic. He has emailed the Shepherds about what their groups should bring. Tracy Crawford will provide ice cream.

Technology Committee: No report.

Worship Council: Kathy reported that they are making plans for Advent services and for the services when Pastor Josh is on parental leave.

Education Council: Debbie reported that in addition to helping Pastor Sarah with fall plans, they continue to work though the Safe Sanctuary policy, to align it with the MC USA policy.

Building Committee: Doug reported that his committee and the junior high youth group are updating Room 10 for Jr. High to meet in.

Central Treasurer: Mike presented the financial report which showed an increase in revenue for July and a decrease in expenses for the month, leaving the church finances in a positive position.

With no further business, Chair Reimer adjourned the meeting with prayer at 8:20 p.m. and extinguished the lamp, signifying that the Holy Spirit goes with us into the world. The next meeting will be Thursday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Frerking, Adm. Asst.