

FMC CHURCH BOARD MEETING August 17, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vicki Hinz-Ensz in the absence of Church Chair Jerry Reimer. The lamp was lit symbolizing Christ's presence over the meeting. Present were Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Sue Gerber, , Pastor Josh Janzen, Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Dan Kunzman, John Regier, Don Esau, Amanda Thimm, and Adm. Asst. Vicki Frerking. Debbie Goossen and Mike Goossen were present via Zoom. Jerry Reimer was absent. Sue Gerber led the group in prayer.

OLD BUSINESS

The July meeting minutes stand approved as presented.

Pastoral Staffing Round Table Discussions: Vicki Hinz-Ensz informed the group of the plans in place for Sunday morning, August 20. The food will be served from 9:00 am to 9:15 am. A brief presentation will be given by the Deacons and Pastor Josh at 9:15 followed by discussion and questions. Someone at each table will take notes of things discussed at their table as well as notes from the discussions in general.

Gage County Historical Society Church Window Bus Tour will stop at First Mennonite Church on September 9. Vern Jantzen has agreed to be present at First Mennonite to answer any questions and give a brief overview of the symbolism portrayed in the windows.

NEW BUSINESS

Technology Update: Two Dell laptop computers were purchased this week to facilitate use of the new Orange Curriculum.

▼ Dan Kunzman moved to approve **Isaiah Friesen's request** for yearly assistance for his AMBS studies in the amount of \$250 per semester for 2023/2024; seconded by Sue Gerber. Motion passed.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Orange Curriculum: He and Shana have met with Orange representatives in preparation to implement the curriculum. It will be used for PK – Sr. High youth Sunday School and also for Peace Club.

He has been accepted into the **Chamber of Commerce Leadership Beatrice Program** which he will attend one day a month through May. The suggested focus he has for the group is on youth, economic disparity, and housing in Beatrice.

The Beatrice Ministerial Association met today at First Mennonite. He is the chairperson. He appreciated some new attendees. Discussions were held regarding the Los Companeros needs and housing issues.

He reported on the **WDC Annual Assembly** held last week at Tabor Mennonite Church. There were approximately 150 in attendance. The only item needing a vote was the WDC budget. The 2024 WDC Assembly will be held at First Mennonite August 2-4.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mission, Peace, & Service Council: Dan reported that the church picnic will be September 24 at the Tabernacle at Chautauqua Park at 5:00 p.m. Pulled pork sandwiches will be provided. A sign up sheet will be posted for other food items.

Worship Council:

1. Amanda reported that they met prior to this meeting.
2. During Pastor Josh's vacation,
 - a) August 27, **Katie Jantzen** will speak.
 - b) September 3, **Ruth Harder** will speak.
 - c) September 10, Pastor Josh will conclude the Dinner with Jesus series and **Communion** will be observed that day.
 - d) September 17, Pastor Josh will begin a new series on **the Lord's Prayer** which will continue through November 5.
3. **Christmas Eve Service:** There was some discussion on whether to hold church services on the morning of Christmas Eve (Sunday) or in the evening on Christmas Eve with a regular Sunday service with Christmas traditions added in. No decision has been made.
4. Karen Wiebe and her daughter Michelle will provide the prelude, hymns and special music on August 27. Doug Shima will provide the children's story.

Education Council: Debbie reported that Bibles will be presented to the church youth on August 27. Shana Ensz is working on this.

Building Council:

1. John reported that the **elevator motor** is on order with Plymouth Electric but as of today was not in.
2. Blue Valley Door will replace the **downspouts**.
3. The issue with wet mail in the **mailbox** has been resolved.
4. Larry Thimm reshingled the **cemetery display shelter**.

Central Treasurer: Mike reported that the net income for July was \$2,370. There were no unusual expenses.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 7:55 p.m. The lamp was extinguished, symbolizing that God remains not only in this place, but goes with us into the world. The next meeting is Thursday, September 21 at 7:00 p.m. Amanda Thimm will lead devotions.

Respectfully submitted, Vicki Frerking, Administrative Assistant