

FMC CHURCH BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 21, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by chair Jerry Reimer. The lamp was lit symbolizing God's presence over the meeting. Those in attendance were Jerry Reimer, Sue Gerber, Dan Kunzman, Debbie Goossen, Mike Goossen, Pastor Josh Janzen and Adm. Asst. Vicki Frerking. Don Esau, Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Amanda Thimm and John Regier were absent. Sue Gerber led the group in devotions and prayer.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The **November minutes** stand approved as presented.
2. **Associate Pastor of Faith Formation** progress: The Board has received and reviewed the MIL for Sarah Regier. The Board will set up a meeting with candidate Sarah Regier the first week of January, 2024. The Board was given authority to hire for the position at a special congregational meeting on September 10, 2023. This position is half time. Salary and benefits will be based on WDC guidelines and prorated. ▼ Dan Kunzman moved that the church board present a recommendation at the Annual meeting that up to \$20,000 from the Undesignated Everence Fund be used as needed to support the role of Associate Pastor of Faith Formation; seconded by Sue Gerber. Motion passed.
3. **Pastor Josh's January 21, 2024 Ordination:** A menu from Colleen's Catering was selected for the meal following ordination. ▼ Sue Gerber moved to have the church board provide dessert; seconded by Dan Kunzman. Motion passed.
4. Pastor Josh requests that **part of his salary be designated as Student Loan payment**. Up to \$5,250 per year may be designated for student loan payments. Jerry Reimer will talk with Lyle Miller on the details of doing this.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Technology Update:** The feedback issue from the mics has been resolved and training has been done with the sound system volunteers. The Instrumental Ensemble and speaking/singing groups couldn't be heard well on the livestream. Our mics are meant to pick up from one person, not a group. The Christmas program will only be available to view on You Tube until January 1 due to copyright regulations.
2. **The Western District Conference Listening Process** will be in March. WDC will send a three-person listening team to visit congregations for worship and to facilitate a congregational conversation about what is most vital to your congregation, your hopes for the future of your congregation, and what resources from WDC can best support your mission.
3. **New Nominating Committee members** are Amanda Thimm and John Regier.
4. **The Annual Meeting agenda** was discussed. Jerry will send a draft to board members. Items on the agenda are to include discussion and voting on the cemetery surround.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

1. **Cottage Prayer meetings**, January 14. Discussions will be on our Mission Statement: "Follow Jesus, Mature in faith, Carry the Good News".
2. **Annual Study Series**. The WDC Listening Process may be done in place of the 2024 Annual Study Series.
3. **Catechism Class:** There are four 6th and 7th graders interested in the class. He is in the process of putting materials together.

4. **Ministerial Association** met in December. They are prioritizing the needs in the community and the unique possibilities presented by the Los Companeros.
5. **Leadership Beatrice:** The community project for his class is to create a “pocket park” in the empty lot on the south side of Court Street between 4th and 5th streets. Each class member is to raise money for the project. Pastor Josh will make announcements regarding this and ask that anyone wanting to donate may do so through the church.
6. He has had **monthly meetings with Andrew Dungan**, Interim Pastor of Summit Street Church.
7. He is requesting to be **gone January 7, 2024** to attend his father’s installation as Deacon at Bethesda Mennonite Church in Henderson. Katie Jantzen has agreed to be supply speaker for that day at FMC.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mission, Peace, and Service Council: Dan reported there were about 40 people at the **Los Companeros dinner** on November 26 at FMC. About 30% of those in attendance were Los Companeros. **The Camp Mennoscah** Breakfast money raised has been sent.

Worship Committee: Amanda’s written report was reviewed. Their next meeting will be January 18 at 5:45 p.m.

Education Council: Sunday School will resume January 7 and Peace Club, SYF, JYF will resume meeting January 31 at 6:30 p.m. for 8 weekly Wednesday night sessions.

Building Committee: John’s written report said a **leak** from the upstairs furnace into the mother’s room was **repaired**. A **new vacuum** was purchased for Mosaic to use. He is getting **quotes** to present at the annual meeting for installation of a fence or planting trees around the cemetery. He suggests a **two-step voting process** at the annual meeting which the board felt would be beneficial to use. 1: Should anything be put at the cemetery edge? 2: If so, should it be a fence or trees?

Central Treasurer: The monthly report was presented. The **proposed budget** for Dec 1, 2023 to Nov. 30, 2024 was worked on, including the projected expenses for the addition of the Associate Pastor of Faith Formation.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS: Beginning in 2024, the duties of greeters will be handled by the Hosts and the **greeter position will be dissolved**. The 2024 Church Board meeting **devotions schedule** was distributed.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 9:20. 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, January 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. with old and new board members.

Respectfully submitted, Vicki Frerking, Adm. Assistant