

First Mennonite Church Board meeting January 15, 2026 – 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 Janzen, Pastor Sarah Neher Reimer, Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Sue Gerber, Don Esau, Mike Goossen, Debbie Goossen, Doug Casey, Kathy Casey, Dorothy Zimmerman, Brett Esau, Lori Thimm, and Adm. Assistant Vicki Frerking. This meeting included the outgoing and incoming church board members. Jerry Reimer led devotions.

OLD BUSINESS

- The December 2025 minutes were approved by acclamation with the correction of Sue Gerber's name.
- ▼Mike Goossen moved to approve the minutes of the Jan 7, 2027 Annual meeting; seconded by Don Esau. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- Adm. Assist Annual Review: ▼Don Esau moved to increase the Adm. Assistant's salary by \$1 per hour, effective January 1, 2026; seconded by Vicki Hinz-Ensz. Motion passed unanimously.
- ▼Sue Gerber moved to have Debbie Goossen and Vern Jantzen establish a committee to plan for FMC's Sesquicentennial in 2027, with Debbie and Vern chairing; seconded by Dorothy Zimmerman. Motion passed unanimously.

Senior Pastor Josh Janzen's Report

- He is doing a sermon series entitle "Dwell Near" which will end prior to Ash Wednesday.
- He is now a Certified Trainer in the "Prepare-Enrich" curriculum for premarital counseling.
- There has been positive feedback on the Cottage Prayer meeting topic and discussions.
- Sarah Bryan of Western District Conference will give a Moment in Mission at FMC on March 8.
- Eric Litwiler of Camp Mennoscah will be at FMC on April 12 to promote Camp through a sermon and Sunday School.

Assistant Pastor of Faith Formation Sarah Neher Reimer's Report

- The Safe Church Committee continues to review and update the current policy and reminded the board that their committee would like to see its members elected rather than appointed, which will require a change in the church Constitution and/or By-Laws. ▼Dorothy Zimmerman moved to establish a diverse Committee of no more than five appointed by the church board to review the Constitution and By-Laws; seconded by Vicki Hinz-Ensz. Motion passed unanimously.
- She and John, and Van VanderSchaaf will leave tomorrow morning to go with four Jr. High youth to Rocky Mountain Snow Camp.
- She is helping facilitate the book study on "Woven" through the WDC Kid's Meet Christ initiative. The Zoom book study began this week.
- Wednesday evening activities will begin in February.

Committee Reports:

Technology: Nothing to report.

Missions, Peace, and Service: Dorothy Zimmerman has met with Dan and is currently open to suggestions on initiatives the Missions, Peace, and Service Committee could address.

Worship: They have been meeting by Zoom. The 5:00 p.m. start time (rather than 6:00) on Christmas Eve was generally well received.

Education: Debbie Goossen will continue to serve on the Safe Church Committee until the policy is rewritten. Vacation Bible School Curriculum is here but dates have not yet been set.

Building: ▼ Lori Thimm moved that the grounds crew be paid the new minimum wage of \$15 per hour as contract labor beginning January 1, 2026; seconded by Don Esau. Motion passed unanimously.

Central Treasurer: Mike presented the financial reports and answered questions. ▼ Motion made by Deb Goossen to remove Mike Goossen from all the bank accounts at Pinnacle Bank that First Mennonite Church has, and add Lori Thimm, who is Treasurer of First Mennonite Church, with full power on the checking account ending in #1257. Second by Don Esau. Motion carried.

Other Items:

- Church cleaning dates will be set by Karen Wiebe and Tracy Crawford.
- The **devotion schedule** for 2026 meetings was presented.

Adjournment: With no further business, Chair Reimer adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m. with prayer and the lamp was extinguished, signifying that the Holy Spirit goes with us into the world. The next meeting is February 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Frerking, Adm. Asst.