

FMC CHURCH BOARD MEETING, March 16, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Jerry Reimer. The lamp was lit symbolizing Christ's presence over the meeting. Present were Jerry Reimer, Mike Goossen, Amanda Thimm, Pastor Josh Janzen, John Regier, Debbie Goossen, Sue Esau, Don Esau, and Adm. Asst. Vicki Frerking. Dan Kunzman and Vicki Hinz-Ensz were absent. Don Esau led devotions on Lent observances and practices based on Galatians 5:25-26.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The **February meeting minutes** stand approved as presented.
2. **Warren's Community Dinner Table** was served on February 21, serving about 120, the majority of those as drive-thru. The remaining two extra dates taken are May 9 and November 21, making a total of three dates in addition to the usual five done by Shepherd Groups. It is undetermined at this time which church groups will serve these two dates. Don Esau will talk with Shana Ensz.
3. The **Annual Study Series** with Pastor Trey Ferguson was well attended at all three presentations/services. Summit Street Church paid his travel and lodging expenses. FMC has paid him \$500 for his presentations.
4. A **Technology Committee report** was provided by Pam and Dan Kunzman and reviewed by the Board.
 - a) Smart carts and a projector have been ordered. Two chrome books will be ordered for the carts.
 - b) Church office operations for preserving church virtual documents were reviewed with Vicki Frerking and Pastor Josh. The intent is to keep five years of documents on One Drive and to yearly transfer older documents to a flash drive to be kept in the safe. The Committee requests an ad hoc committee to review what current items need to be kept with the historical records currently in the basement on the stage. We currently have paper copies of church board and committee meeting minutes and bulletins on file either in the basement or in the office file cabinets, as well as digital copies in the safe and on file with Western District Conference. The request for an ad hoc committee will be tabled until the April meeting.
 - c) Pastor Josh is selecting a pod cast program to host recordings of only the sermons. The committee will start tracking statistics on a quarterly basis for the social media platforms we are currently using.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The **Homestead Harmonizers** will lead a service in August. We have requested that they consider August 27 when Pastor Josh will be gone. A meal will follow that service.
2. **MC USA Delegate** requests have been in the bulletin without volunteers so far. We will continue to request this through the bulletin and will add that FMC will also send any **senior high youth and young adults** who would like to attend who could possibly go with Sarah Neher, (John Regier's fiancé).
3. **MCC Mini-Auction funds** raised in October, have always been held until the Nebraska MCC Sale so items could be purchased to sell at the state sale, with the remainder of the Mini-Auction funds then added to the NE MCC funds raised. Discussion was held as to whether this was the best practice as the funds raised by FMC and then held for five months between the two auctions could be put to better use immediately. ▼ Mike Goossen moved to disperse the Mini Auction funds to MCC shortly after the mini auction, keeping \$2000 back for purchases for the NE MCC Sale; seconded by Sue Gerber. Motion passed 6-1 on voice vote.
4. The **Biennial Nonprofit Status Report** has been filed with the Nebraska Secretary of State through the law offices of Smith, Schafer, Davis LLC at no charge. We thank them for this service.

PASTOR'S REPORT

1. Working with the FMC Priorities disclosed at the Cottage Prayer meetings of Ministry to Youth, families, and newcomers; and addressing the economic disparity and poverty in the community, he attended an *Addiction Survival Kit Virtual Training for Clergy and Pastoral Care Workers* with presenter Otto Schultz, presented by Faith Partners and Region 7 Behavioral Healthcare and Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska. He has also participated in the community wide conversations with community leaders about poverty in our community.

2. He has been making school lunch visits with the younger students of the congregation at Tri County.
3. He helped the Mens Brotherhood with the Mother to Mother shelf building project. He has been thinking of project ideas for the church youth.
4. A combined Maundy Thursday and Good Friday service is being planned for the evening of April 6 with food and foot washing.
5. He is continuing his Education at AMBS online and will be attending an AMBS presentation on Transitional Ministry on April 13-15. Pastor Tim will preach on April 16.
6. He will inquire with Kathy Neufeld Dunn of WDC about the possibility of being ordained in the fall.
7. He and Steph are taking a trip to Europe in late August and early September. A substitute pastor will be needed for August 27 and September 3.
8. Child Dedication will be held March 26 for Baker Hamilton Esau.
9. He and the Deacons continue to keep in sight the *Culture of Call*.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mission, Peace & Service Council: In Dan's absence a written report was reviewed.

- a) He attended a meeting of the Los Companeros group steering committee with Kathy Linsenmeyer and Rich Moon. Kathy does not know at this time of any additional new arrivals.
- b) Actions to be taken are contacting Tobias Templemeyer, Beatrice City Administrator, to see if the city can give any help with providing minimum standards for rental homes, and any funds available to help owners rehab empty homes for rentals.
- c) They are hoping to provide some basic English classes with church people as tutors.
- d) They are soliciting used baseball gear from churches so pickup games can be played, possibly at Cedar School field.

Worship Council: Amanda reported that they are meeting new Monday with Pastor to help in planning the Holy Week service. Lilies and Palm branches have been ordered.

Education Council: Debbie reported that they are signing up volunteers for Vacation Bible School. Registration is open online for VBS. There will be no Summer Sunday School for the youth. They will meet for the last time this session on May 21.

Building Committee: John reported church cleaning will be March 23 and 24. They will be removing the trees on the south fence line of the cemetery. They have a quote for stump removal and received some prices for repainting the fence. These vary on whether the fence is removed for painting at a facility or painted on site, and whether they will be powder coated. ▼ Don Esau moved that the Building Committee be given authority to determine the best option for the Cemetery fence, in consultation from the Cemetery Committee. This could be paid from the Cemetery Maintenance Fund or the Building Committee's budget. Seconded by John Regier. Motion passed 7-0.

Central Treasurer: Mike presented the financial reports and reported that we have a positive general fund balance.

With no further business, the meeting was closed with prayer and extinguishing the candle, signifying that God remains not only in this place, but goes with us into the world. The next meeting will be Thursday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Frerking, Administrative Assistant