

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH BOARD MEETING May 22, 2025, 7 p.m. 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, Dan Kunzman, Kathy Casey, Don Esau, Vicki Hinz-Ensz, and Administrative Assistant Vicki Frerking. Absent were Sue Gerber, Debbie Goossen, Mike Goossen, and Doug Casey. Pastor Josh Janzen led devotions.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The April meeting minutes were accepted with noted changes of John Regier Reimer serving as a delegate, instead of Pastor Sarah, to MC USA Conference. The minutes also changed the FMC Anniversary discussion from 100 years to 150 years.
2. **MC USA Conference** in July. Pastor Sarah said the flight tickets will be purchased next week.
3. Pastor Sarah reported that she is on schedule to be ordained in the fall of 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Pastor Josh parental leave planning:** Pastor Josh expressed his gratitude for parental leave and is preparing sermons and worship orders in advance to make his leave a smoother time. Jerry Reimer spoke with Kathy Neufeld Dunn to get a better explanation of MCC policies on paternity leave vs maternity leave and leave for lead pastors vs associate pastors. The discussion was tabled, and members are to bring their concerns and ideas to the June meeting.
2. **Pastor Josh's third year sabbatical leave planning:** Pastor Josh will begin his fourth year of ministry here in September. The formula for sabbatical leave is 1 month leave per year of ministry, to be taken in the year following each three years of ministry here. Pastor Josh has no sabbatical plans at this time.
3. **Wedding Contracts:** Discussion was held regarding the need for Board approval of rental of the church facilities for weddings, in order to provide better oversight of the process and better communication for the congregation. ▲ Vicki Hinz-Ensz moved to approve the application for use of the church by Jacob Jennings and Erin Mapson for their wedding on September 20, 2025; seconded by Don Esau. Motion passed on a voice vote of 4-1.

PASTORS' REPORTS

Senior Pastor Josh:

1. His **summer sermon series** is "Women of the Bible". He has been working ahead on sermons and worship orders.
2. He has met with the **Southeast NE Collaborative** and FMC Love Fund is now listed on their website (findhelp.org) as a resource for assistance with rent, utilities, etc.
3. He is helping with preparations for **VBS**.

Pastor of Faith Formation Sarah:

1. FMC youth will go to the **MCC USA Convention** with Rainbow Mennonite and Southern Hills Mennonite, Topeka. Combined there will be five boys and two girls.
2. **Vacation Bible School:** 32 children are registered. She is helping with preparations for that.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mission, Peace, & Service Council:

1. No report.

Technology Committee:

1. **The new microphones** are installed.

Worship Council:

1. Kathy reported there is **no children's story scheduled** for the summer months but if anyone would like to do one, they should contact the Worship Council.

Education Council: In Debbie's absence she sent a report:

1. "As chair of the WDC Resource Commission, I was very excited to represent FMC at the **"Kids Meet Christ" workshop** on May 3 at First Mennonite Church, Newton. Almost 50 participants from 27 different WDC congregations learned about the Lilly Grant project WDC received to support children in worship. Each WDC congregation received a basket of materials for engaging children in worship, which included "The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible", wooden figures to interactively tell the Bible story, play scarves, and an idea book for using these items. I am really looking forward to the fall workshop on Nov 15 in Newton. It will center on how to approach change in congregations and initial tools/structure to support children in worship.
2. Our **Safe Church Committee** of Pastor Sarah, Neal Trantham, Grace Tegtmeier, and myself met May 13 to begin working on updating the FMC Safe Church policy. Sarah did a wonderful job of leading our discussion through the "Abuse Prevention" section of the Rainbow Mennonite Church policy, which RMC is allowing us to follow and adapt for our church. We will continue working on the next 3 sections during the coming months."

Building Committee:

1. Doug Casey and Jim Enszt installed a **new faucet** on the west side of church.
2. He has tuned up the string trimmer.
3. The cemetery is ready for Memorial weekend.

Central Treasurer:

1. The April **Treasurer's report** was submitted showing an income of \$15,607.33 and expenses of \$16,813.86.

With no further business, Chair Reimer adjourned the meeting with prayer at 8:00 pm and extinguished the lamp, signifying that the Holy Spirit goes with us into the world. The next meeting will be Thursday, June 19, 2025 at 7 p.m. Doug Casey will lead devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Frerking, Adm. Asst.