

First Mennonite Church Board Minutes – May 19, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Dorothy Zimmerman. The lamp was lit symbolizing God's presence over the meeting. Present were Pastor Roger Neufeld Smith, Dorothy Zimmerman, Barb Thimm, Mike Goossen, Don and Jane Esau, Jim and Vicki Ensz, Vern Jantzen, Administrative Assistant Vicki Frerking. Don Jantzen was absent. Pastor Roger led the group in devotions.

OLD BUSINESS

1. ▲Mike Goossen moved to approve the **April minutes**; seconded by Vern Jantzen. Motion passed on voice vote.
2. **Technology Update**: Some new pictures of church activities and a copy of the Safe Sanctuary policy has been sent to Dan Kunzman for the new website.
3. **Video/Audio Personnel**: It was discussed if this/these positions should be elected or appointed for terms so as not to overuse those who are helping with this. This discussion will be continued.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Schedule of Speakers**:
 - a) May 29: Young Family and Adults report on their weekend retreat on Conflict Resolution.
 - b) June 12: Pastoral Candidate Josh Janzen will present the message.
 - c) June 26: Members involved in MDS will report on their work and the mission of MDS.
 - d) July 24:
 - e) July 31: Pastor Sarah Schlegel of Salem Mennonite, Shickley, NE will preach.
 - f) August 28:
2. **Covid Update**: Dorothy Zimmerman noted the increased Covid activity in the US and Nebraska. No changes will be made to the current safety measures.
3. **Pastor Candidate Josh Janzen and wife Stephanie's visit**
 - a) The Search Committee is responsible for planning everything before the congregation votes, including all of the congregation notifications, events for the weekend of June 12, tours, and house searches.
 - b) **Plans** for pastoral visit by Josh and Stephanie Janzen
 - i. **Saturday, June 11**: Meet with the young adults. Childcare will be provided at the church by church members.
 - ii. **Sunday, June 12**: Meet with Children during the Sunday School time.
 - 10:30 a.m. Josh will give the sermon and do the children's story.
 - Noon: Potluck to meet the congregation
 - Evening: Meet and Greet with the Church Board.
 - iii. At some point during their visit, Vern Jantzen and Mike Goossen will review a draft of the Covenant of Understanding with Josh. If the congregational vote on June 19 is favorable, Josh and Dorothy Zimmerman (on behalf of the congregation) will sign the final draft in August.
4. **Review the four recommendations that will be discussed at MC USA Special Session**. Jim Ensz is our church delegate for the Special Session. The church board discussed the four resolutions recognizing these are complex issues and our members have not had a chance to provide input and discussion. The board took no action at this time. If congregation members have concerns about any of these issues, they are to talk to Jim prior to the Special Session May 27-30.
 - a) Clarification on MC USA Polity and the Role of the Membership Guidelines of MC USA.
 - b) MC USA for Justice Resolution
 - c) MC USA Accessibility Resolution
 - d) A Resolution for Repentance and Transformation

REPORTS

Pastor Roger's Report:

1. **Spring Communion** date will be June 19.
2. He clarified his scheduled dates as to when he will be at First Mennonite this summer.

Mission, Peace, and Service Council:

1. They will have a zoom interview with Charity Stowell, (MCC U.S. Newcomer Connections Coordinator during worship on May 22).
2. There was great response to the request for help for local immigrants when needed. Recently mattresses and bedding were provided. The immigrants were very grateful.

Worship Council:

1. They've been working with Pastor Roger on planning worship services and feel the basement discussion services went well.

Education Council:

1. VBS is starting (May 31 – June 3).
2. Intergenerational Sunday School will start June 19 at 9:30 for the summer months.

Building Council:

1. In Don's absence, Jim reported that the new fans came in Wednesday and will be installed on May 25 and 26.
2. Plymouth Electric has found some LED bulbs that may have a rebate.

Central Treasurer:

1. There is \$10,682 in the General Fund.
2. The ushers will begin passing the offering plate again on June 19.
3. We have received a donation for the painting fund that will pay for most of the bill.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Appoint a **committee to organize Roger's farewell potluck**. Barb Thimm and Jane Esau will organize this for August 21.
2. **Church Cleaning:** Church Cleaning will be held on June 9 and 10.

With no further items, Chair Zimmerman adjourned the meeting with prayer at 8:40 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 will be Thursday, June 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Frerking, Administrative Assistant