

First Mennonite Church Board meeting – November 20, 2025, 7 p.m. FMC Church Basement.

Chair Jerry Reimer called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The lamp was lit symbolizing the presence of the Holy Spirit over the meeting. Attending were Jerry Reimer, Pastor Sarah Reimer, Sue Gerber, Doug Casey, Kathy Casey, Dan Kunzman, and Administrative Assistant Vicki Frerking. Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Don Esau, Mike Goossen and Debbie Goossen, and Pastor Josh were absent. Pastor Sarah led the group in devotions on gratitude and trust.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Dan Kunzman moved to approve the **October Board meeting minutes**, seconded by Kathy Casey. Motion passed.
2. Pastor Sarah continues to meet with her mentor in the **ordination process**, with ordination hopefully in October 2026.
3. Plymouth Electric will install a **timed switch for the automatic door** on the east entrance. We have received **grant funding of \$500** from the Anabaptist Disabilities Organization.
4. The **Mini-Auction proceeds of \$22,474** have been sent to MCC.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **The Corinthian Plan**, (the insurance program offered to MC USA employees). There have been some changes to the Corinthian Plan, now offering two plans instead of four. Participation costs were provided for employee and spouse, so we requested additional information on premium prices for a family plan (employee, spouse & child). We didn't receive that information prior to the meeting. ▼ Dan Kunzman moved to empower Chair Reimer to decide which plan to enroll Pastor Josh and family in when the information is received, and some additional questions are answered; seconded by Doug Casey. Motion passed. Chair Reimer will make every effort to consult with the board in making that decision but the deadline to enroll is very soon.

PASTORS' REPORTS:

Senior Pastor: Josh – no report as he is on paternal leave.

Pastor of Faith Formation: Sarah

1. The **Safe Sanctuary Committee** continues their review of the current Policy and wonder what must be done to make this a **stand-alone committee** with continuity of committee members. Presently, the committee consists of the Associate Pastor, and the chairs of the VBS Committee and Education Committee so there is turnover on the board. Because of the complexity of issues addressed in the Safe Sanctuary policy, they feel it would be better to have people on the committee who remain familiar with the policy. This will be researched in the by-laws. Additionally, Safe Sanctuary **requires background checks** every three years on everyone who works with children. They estimate that the cost of this will be approximately \$1500.
2. The **JYF and SYF are meeting separately** this year. They are very thankful to the congregation for their support of the Soup Fundraiser which raised over \$3000.
3. She will accompany **JYF to Rocky Mountain Snow Camp** in January and Brett & Darcy Esau will accompany **SYF to Rocky Mountain Snow Camp** in February.
4. She is planning the Nov 30 service and Christmas Eve service.
5. She is thinking about presenting **Circle of Grace** to the children and youth yearly. Circle of Grace is a Christian program designed to educate children and youth about safety, boundaries, and respectful relationships.
6. The **Baptism class** has begun with seven youth. They will meet several times this fall and again in the spring prior to Baptism.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mission, Peace, & Service Council:

1. *"Lights in the Darkness – A Candlelight Service of Hope"* will be held on Black Friday, November 28 at 5:30 p.m. at Charles Park, 200 N 5th St, Beatrice. There will be music and messages of hope. Sponsored by Blue Valley Indivisible. There will be a freewill offering for the food pantries.

Technology Committee:

1. Everything seems to be working. Dan wonders if the Technology Committee should have a seat on the board.

Worship Council:

1. They are working on Advent services. Brett and Caleb Klingenberg will prelude on December 7. Dec 7 will be the final recorded sermon from Pastor Josh. He will return to work half time on Dec 10 and be preaching in person.
2. The Christmas Eve service will begin at 5:00 pm.

Education Council:

1. The Safe Church committee met Nov. 13 to continue working on our church policy.
2. Deb attended the Kids Meet Christ Western District Conference workshop Nov. 15 at Hope Mennonite Church, Wichita, KS. The theme for the day was "Preparing the Way for Children in Worship". Michele Hershberger spoke on "Creating True Change in Church." A session on "Forming Children as Worshipers and Priests" was led by Melissa Florer-Bixler. The funding for this event is part of the \$600,000 5-year Lilly Grant received by WDC. It was so exciting to see over 60 participants from 25 WDC congregations at this event!

Building Committee:

1. Doug has replaced new outside lights at the west entrance and lights in Pastor Josh's office.

Central Treasurer: The October financial reports were presented along with a proposed budget for board members to look at prior to the December meeting.

With no further business, Chair Reimer adjourned the meeting with prayer at 8:00 p.m. and extinguished the lamp, signifying that the Holy spirit goes with us into the world. The next meeting will be Thursday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Frerking, Adm. Assistant