

FMC Church Board Meeting, November 17, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Dorothy Zimmerman. The lamp was lit symbolizing Christ's presence over the meeting. Present were Dorothy Zimmerman, Vern Jantzen, Barb Thimm, Jim Ensz, Mike Goossen, Jane Esau, Pastor Josh Janzen, and Adm. Asst. Vicki Frerking. Don Esau, Don Jantzen, and Vicki Hinz-Ensz were absent. Jim Ensz led devotions on avoiding prideful thanksgiving, based on Luke 18:11.

Old Business

1. The **October meeting minutes** stand approved as presented.
2. **Technology Update**
 - a) Switch to **Office cell phone update**: Vicki Frerking said she is still working on getting the number ported from Windstream to Selectel to change to a cell phone for the church office. Some progress is being made.
 - b) A **new FM Transmitter** has been purchased and installed and is working. The old one had developed static.
 - c) Pam Kunzman has written a very inclusive **A/V/Technology Instruction Manual**. Copies are in the balcony and by the front projectors as well as in the office file cabinet.
 - d) **Future Technology Goals**: It was discussed whether a different committee needs to be formed to address future technology considerations for FMC or if the current/past committee should remain intact. The committee established in September 2021 included Dan & Pam Kunzman, Brett Esau, Bryan Heinz, LeRoy Janzen, Neal Trantham, Van Vanderschaaf, and Vicki Hinz-Ensz. Pam Kunzman had taken leadership of this committee. Dorothy Zimmerman will talk with her to see if she wants to continue in that role. Some considerations for the future:
 - i. Mount the existing projectors in the ceiling and move the power point laptop to the balcony. Build a platform at the back of the balcony to house the A/V/Live stream equipment.
 - ii. Moving our office operations to a more digital format.
 - iii. Review our Social Media forums. (Website, YouTube site, Face book) Are they fresh and conveying the same message?
 - iv. Put a Smart TV in the basement. (This item was approved at the congregational meeting on September 19, 2021 and will be purchased in the near future.)
 - v. Evaluate Sunday School/Peace Club needs.
3. New **Church Pictorial Directory** Update: Zella Penner and Dolores Jantzen are coordinating the project with Jim Christensen of LifeTouch. They hope to set photo sessions for January 16, 17, 18, 2023
4. **Nominating Committee**: Barb Thimm and Jim Ensz will be the new members of the Nominating Committee.
5. **Tree Planting Project**: This was discussed at the October meeting as a possible project for Mennonite Men as seen in the Everyday Stewardship magazine, Summer 2022 edition. The Summit Street and FMC Mennonite Men's Group have not been active for a number of years.

Vern Jantzen volunteered to try to get the group active again beginning in 2023. There are funds in the Mennonite Men's account.

New Business

1. **Covid Update:** Cases are not increasing at this time but are staying level.
2. **Deacon Nomination:** Dorothy is taking congregational nominations through December 8. She has a nominee who has consented to serve as Deacon.
3. **Homer Friesen retirement celebration:** Everence has contacted Pastor Josh and Dorothy Zimmerman about a retirement "meet and greet" coffee for retiring Everence Financial Consultant Homer Friesen of Henderson on January 8 at 9:30 a.m. His replacement, Mark Dyck, of the Henderson office and other Everence personnel will be in attendance. Everence will pay gathering expenses.
4. **Annual Study Series:** Pastor Josh and Pastor Tim have been discussing possible speakers for the Annual Study Series in late winter. They will continue to plan the series. It is FMC's turn to host the Sunday morning session.

Pastor's Report

1. **AMBS Seminar** report: He attended the Transition into Leadership Seminar at AMBS Campus last week with his mentor Willmar Harder of Buhler Mennonite Church. He felt it was very beneficial.
2. **Cottage Prayer Meetings Topic:** Pastor Josh is working on the topic. Shepherd Groups will meet for Cottage Prayer meetings on January 8, 2023.
3. **Mennonite Pastor Cluster meetings:** He is enjoying the monthly gathering of area Mennonite Pastors.
4. He feels very good about his first few months at FMC.

Committee Reports

1. **Mission, Peace, & Service Council:**
 - a) **Meat Canning:** Six people from FMC went to Milford on Thursday to help with meat canning. FMC has had contributions of \$4,550 so far to assist in the cost of the chicken to can.
 - b) **Newcomers:** Several people who've been actively helping the newcomers from Nicaragua become settled in Beatrice met to try to determine how they can help them become more self sufficient. They regularly give them rides to appointments with Immigration and lawyers but the relationships are complicated by the language barrier. They will be having a conversation with them and an interpreter to determine their true needs and how they can become more self reliant in the future.
 - c) **MDS La Posada Project:** Marv & Lisa Goossen are in Texas now along with Greg Licht. MDS is hiring local contractors to help due to lack of volunteer helpers. Jim Ensz, Brad Thimm, Kyle Riesen, Rodney Ensz and Neal Trantham will go sometime in December.
2. **Worship Council:** They have helped Pastor Josh in planning for Advent services. The Decorating Committee will decorate the church on November 21 so it is ready for the first Advent service.

3. **Education Council:** JYF went to People's City Mission on Wednesday evening with 5 kids in attendance. They are looking for JYF sponsors. The Christmas program is planned and practices will begin soon.
4. **Building Council:** In Don Jantzen's absence, Pastor and Vicki reported on some building repairs Don has made.
5. **Central Treasurer:** The Treasurer's report for October was presented showing a **deficit in the operating balance** of \$2,900. Current operating balances will be brought to the congregation's attention through monthly bulletin notes.
 - a) The **2023 Budget requests** were reviewed and adjusted. The final budget will be presented to the Church Board for review at their December meeting.
 - b) **Debit cards** have been secured from Pinnacle Bank for Pastor Josh and Vicki Frerking. Use of the Everence credit cards will be discontinued.

Other Agenda items:

1. Don and June Diller would like to donate their spinet piano to the church as they are moving to Samaritan Springs and no longer have a use for it. Their offer is graciously accepted and the piano will replace the large upright piano in the basement.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 10:00 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, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. Vern Jantzen will have devotions.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Frerking, Administrative Assistant