

## **FMC CHURCH BOARD MEETING November 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. Those in attendance were Jerry Reimer, Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Sue Gerber, Don Esau, Pastor Josh Janzen, John Regier, Amanda Thimm. John Regier led group in devotions and prayer.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- a) **The October Minutes stand approved with the following change** under Education Council: Peace Club will conclude for this term on November 1, rather than November 8.
- b) **Associate Pastor of Faith Formation progress** - Sarah Regier has submitted her MLI to MC USA who does the background checks and then submits it to conferences. Jerry will inform the board when the MLI is available.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) **Technology Update** – We continue to get a lot of feedback during the service with the Audio System. ▼ Sue Gerber moved to try disconnecting the existing mic that is used for the children's story to see if that makes a difference this Sunday and if that doesn't work then give the Tech Committee authority to purchase new equipment that includes the tablet; seconded by Amanda Thimm. Motion passed.
- b) **Corinthian Plan for Pastor Josh** – Pastor Josh stated that the current insurance plan is working for their family. ▼ Vicki Hinz-Ensz made the motion to renew the current \$3,000/\$6,000 aggregate deductible plan. John Regier seconded the motion, motion passed. (The discussion of salary, health benefits, and funding for the new Associate Pastor of Faith Formation will take place at the December meeting.)
- c) **Pastor Josh's ordination** – The church board congratulated Pastor Josh for being approved for ordination following his successful interview. Jerry Reimer will contact WDC (Kathy Neufeld-Dunn) to see if she would be available January 21, 2024, for the ordination. Preliminary plans will include a Sunday morning service, noon meal, and ordination service following the meal. Worship Council will work with WDC in planning the service, and church board will arrange for the noon meal catering and other setup.
- d) **WDC Listening Process** – Pastor Josh will contact Heidi Regier to see if there is any new information we should be aware of or if dates have been set.
- e) **Appointing Nominating Committee member for next three years** – Names were submitted and Jerry Reimer will get approval from the suggested individuals so they can be listed on the ballot for the annual meeting. (Amanda Thimm agreed to be on committee; waiting for approval from the other suggested candidate.)
- f) **2024 Offering Schedule** – The worksheet was reviewed. It was decided to leave the Dec 31 offering open. It will be decided at a later date when we may have more knowledge of needs. ▼ Sue Gerber moved to accept the 2024 Offering Schedule; Amanda Thimm seconded the motion; motion passed.

### **Pastor Josh's Report**

- a) **Ordination** – Pastor Josh will talk with his mentor about attending his ordination. He will also check into what kind of 'invitations' should be made to be sent out.
- b) **Catechism Class** – Four youth have contacted Pastor Josh and are interested in taking the Catechism class. There are also some individuals who are interested in the class for membership.
- c) **Ministerial Association** – will meet in late November or first week in December.
- d) **Leadership Beatrice Program** – Pastor Josh has appreciated being involved in the program. It allows him to build community connections and meet more people in the community. They meet once a month.
- e) **Summit Street Church** – Andrew Dungan was officially licensed. Pastor Josh and Andrew have met and are developing a good relationship and both want to work on possibilities of how our churches can work together.

## Committee Reports:

- a) **Mission, Peace, & Service Council** – Dan submitted the following report in his absence.
  - a. The Baseball game/Potluck was postponed again and now is a Community Thanksgiving Potluck on December 3 @ 5:30 p.m. at FMC
  - b. Mini-Auction brought in \$17,191
  - c. M & M Breakfast brought in \$2,210
- b) **Worship Council** – Amanda – Worship Council met November 16 prior to the Church Board meeting
  - a. Increased budget to compensate for copyright costs
  - b. Working on Pastor Josh’s ordination service
  - c. Nov 26 sermon theme – *“Christ is King”*
  - d. Advent theme is *“How Will We Know”* and begins Dec 3.
    - i. The council will be asking members of the congregation to participate in the candle lighting/sending during advent
    - ii. Working on getting personal reflections/responses from congregational members
    - iii. Decorating committee is providing prompts/staging for Advent and decorating the church
    - iv. Next meeting will be in December
- c) **Education Council** – Debbie submitted the following report in her absence.
  - a. Pastor Josh, Vicki, Sue, and Debbie met Tuesday to formulate a more detailed job description for the Associate Pastor of Faith Formation position and provide clarity to responsibilities of Education Council and Adult Resource Coordinator position.
  - b. Five youth traveled to Lincoln to participate in the Ten Thousand Villages nativity showcase on Nov 3
  - c. The Christmas program is planned and practices will begin soon
  - d. The adult SS class will be studying *“Salt and Light”* from Mennomedia beginning in December
- d) **Building Council** – John
  - a. Shared figures for materials for vinyl fence (rails and posts). Will get a complete quote that includes all materials and labor for annual meeting
  - b. Will get a quote for trees around cemetery for annual meeting
- e) **Central Treasurer** – Mike submitted the report in his absence.
  - a. Working on preliminary 2024 budget to present at the December meeting
  - b. ▼John Regier made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report; Sue Gerber seconded; motion passed

## Other Agenda Items

- a) **Warren’s Table** – Don Esau
  - a. Our church has been asked to serve 6 times a year; the even months. April – December will always be the first Tuesday of the month. We will also serve in February, but it will not be the first Tuesday of the month. Don will find out what the February date will be (a different organization does the first Tuesday of the month in February)
  - b. The deacons will work with the Shepherd Group leaders to determine if it would be helpful for some Shepherd groups to combine to serve at Warren’s Table since there is an increase in numbers served

**Adjournment:** With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer . The lamp was extinguished symbolizing that God remains not only in this place but goes with us into the world. The next meeting is Thursday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, notes taken by Vicki Hinz-Ensz in Vicki Frerking’s absence