

FMC Church Board meeting, October 20, 2022, 7 p.m.

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, Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Mike Goossen, Don Esau, Jane Esau, Don Jantzen, Pastor Josh Jantzen, and Adm. Assistant Vicki Frerking. Jim Ensz was absent. Jane Esau led devotions on Pastor Appreciation as October is Pastor Appreciation Month.

Old Business

1. The September Church Board **meeting minutes** stand approved as presented.
2. **Technology Update:**
 - a) **Website:** Vicki Frerking is updating the website weekly with the addition of bulletins, church minutes, and calendar events. Pastor Josh is taking care of other updates, promotion of upcoming events, other Mennonite related content, and photos/reports on past events.
 - b) **Google Suite and new email addresses:** We are using the new email addresses. Senders of emails to the old email are notified automatically of the new email address.
 - c) **Switch to cell phones:** Pastor Josh has his cell phone from Verizon with the same number as was previously assigned to the Pastor's office. The bill has been wrong, but he has corrected it. He carries this phone with him so he can be reached when he's out of the office. The office land line is still in operation because Selectel has had difficulty getting the number ported from Windstream. We would like to keep the same phone number on the cell phone as the current land line. Vicki Frerking continues to work on it.
 - d) **The FM transmitter** used to broadcast the service to the church parking lot has developed a lot of static. Midwest Sound and Lighting has been contacted to resolve this.
 - e) **A/V Instruction Manual:** Pam Kunzman is working on writing an instruction manual for the audio visual equipment used in the church.
3. **Church Pictorial Directory:** Vicki Frerking has been in contact with Jim Christensen, the representative we worked with on the last pictorial directory in 2017. The company we worked with then, Lifetouch, has gone out of business, but Jim represents a different company, UCD Unique Church Solutions, that offers directories with the same process of taking the photos, with those having their photo taken receiving a free 8 x 10 photo and a free directory. Dorothy Zimmerman will set up a committee to work with Jim on getting the dates set for family photos. Amanda Thimm and Darcy Esau worked with Jim on the previous directory.

New Business:

1. **COVID Update:** Dorothy Zimmerman reported that there is currently a very low incidence of COVID in Gage County. No safety protocols will be initiated. Hand sanitizer and masks continue to be available for those who want it.
2. **All Saints Day Speaker** will be Jerry Reimer.
3. **The Offering Schedule for 2023** was discussed. ■Don Esau moved to follow the same giving schedule 2022 with the exception of the fifth Sunday of January to revert back to FMC. (Last year it was for AMBS as David Boshart of AMBS was our guest speaker that Sunday.) All first, third and fifth Sunday offerings will be to First Mennonite Church in 2023 with the exception of June 4 which will be for the Vacation Bible School project and the June 11 offering will be for FMC. Motion seconded by Vicki Hinz-Ensz. Motion passed.
4. **2023 Dates for Annual Meeting & Cottage Prayer** meetings: The 2023 Annual meeting will be January 11. Cottage Prayer meetings will be January 8.
5. **Nominating Committee Appointees:** In recent years, the Nominating Committee Appointees have been named from the outgoing Church Board members. Barb Thimm and either Jim Ensz or Vern Jantzen will be the new Nominating Committee Appointees.
6. **HSA account for Pastor Josh:** If approved, the church would contribute to this account to cover dental and vision expenses incurred by Pastor Josh and dependants. These items are not covered under his Corinthian Medical plan. An HSA was set up for Pastor Brett at his request when Lori Thimm was treasurer. She will be consulted on the details. Pastor Josh will research the dental and vision coverage he and Steph may have under her work plan. This item was tabled and will be put on the November agenda.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor Josh reported that he now has a mentor, Willmar Harder of Buhler Mennonite Church. He is participating in the AMBS Leadership Program at the suggestion of Kathy Neufeld Dunn. He and Pastor Harder will be attending a seminar for the Leadership Program on November 10-12 in Elkhart, IN. He plans to be back to preach on Sunday, November 13.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mission, Peace, & service Council: In Jim's absence, Vicki Ensz reported that they met with others who are actively involved in helping the newcomers in Beatrice get established. Over the past four months, they have welcomed them with grocery assistance, furnishing beds, [towels](#), and other household items, helping with rides, and [assisting](#) them [with](#) making connections in the community. Discussion and discernment for what the future vision of FMC in welcoming the newcomers is taking place and will be shared with FMC members. There are currently about 30 individuals from the countries of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Cuba, Venezuela, and Mexico with more anticipated to arrive. The families all have jobs, and with working many hours/different shifts, it has been difficult for them to take English classes, so language remains a barrier (Kathy Linsenmeyer is teaching English to some of them when they can meet). FMC members may contribute at any time to the FMC Immigration Fund that has been set up to help with immediate needs, especially mattresses and bedding. (Marked donations may be put in the offering plate.)

Worship Council: They and the Decorating Committee are working with Pastor Josh in preparing for the Advent season, November 27 through December 25.

Education Council: They are looking to purchase a Smart TV to be used in Sunday School and Peace Club. This would come from their supplies budget. The Children's Christmas Program will be December 18.

Building Council: Don reported that a tree has been planted by Vern Fast's sister and brother in his memory at the east edge of the cemetery in line with the other trees there. It is an Autumn Blaze Maple.

Central Treasurer:

1. Pastors Pension Plan

- a) Pastor Josh has submitted the paperwork to establish his Pension Plan with Everence so FMC's monthly contributions may be made.
- b) Mike reported that the final five payments to Pastor Brett Klingenberg's Pension Plan were somehow missed. He has been in contact with Brett and will get the payment of \$2457.50 to him.

2. Mike presented a **preliminary budget for 2023** showing expenditures and income based on the 2022 figures. It projects **an increase of nearly \$3000 will be needed monthly** in congregational giving to meet projected expenses.

3. **Church credit cards:** Currently the church credit cards are issued through Everence Credit Union. It has been difficult to make changes as to who is to be a cardholder, as well as who is able to make those changes because of our church leadership positions changing yearly. Social Security numbers of all those in leadership positions and card holders are required. Treasurer ■ Mike Goossen moved that we discontinue our credit cards with Everence Credit Union and set up debit cards with our current checking account at Pinnacle Bank, stating this would make his job as treasurer easier too. Motion seconded by Vern Jantzen. Motion passed on voice vote.

4. **Budget Requests:** Worship Council, Education Council, and Building Committee will submit budget requests to Mike soon so the 2023 fiscal year budget can be presented to the board at the November meeting.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS:

Dorothy Zimmerman presented an article from Everyday Stewardship on **Mennonite Men's tree planting project** to combat climate change. Mennonite Men's goal is to plant 1 million trees throughout the world by 2030 and to help them stay healthy and grow. Dorothy wonders if First Mennonite could participate in this effort. Discussion was held but no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 9:20 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, November 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. with Jim Ensz leading devotions.

Respectfully submitted, Vicki Frerking, Administrative Assistant