

## FMC CHURCH BOARD MEETING September 21, 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. Present were Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Sue Gerber, Don Esau, Pastor Josh Janzen, Dan Kunzman, John Regier, Amanda Thimm, Debbie Goossen, Mike Goossen, and Adm. Asst. Vicki Frerking. No one was absent. Amanda Thimm led the group in devotions on finding the right balance in our lives. We should follow Jesus' example of balancing prayer with action and learn to say the necessary "No."

### OLD BUSINESS

1. ▼Mike Goossen moved to approve the **August 17 board minutes**, seconded by Dan Kunzman. Motion passed.
2. **The minutes of the Special Congregational meeting** held September 10 were approved by consensus.
3. A letter from **Isaiah Friesen** was presented thanking the congregation for their continued support in his ministry studies.
4. Chair Reimer thanked board members for their service at **Warren's Dinner Table** on September 18. 120 were served.
5. With the congregational approval on September 10 of adding a **half time Associate Pastor of Faith Formation**, the board will take the next steps of **soliciting applicants**. Chair Reimer will contact Sarah Neher Regier to see if she is willing to submit her MLI to the Board for consideration (and subsequent conversation).
6. **The Board also discussed drafting necessary changes** to FMC's Constitution and By-Laws to accommodate this new role. There was discussion about **where an office** would be located for this position. No official board action was taken at this time.
7. Chair Reimer will secure an **All-Saints Day speaker** for November 5.
8. The Gage County Historical Society brought 15-20 people to First Mennonite on a **Stained-Glass Tour** on September 9. Vern Jantzen gave a 15-minute presentation on FMC's stained-glass windows.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Technology Updates:

1. **A new docking station** was ordered for Pastor Josh as his discontinued working.
2. Parishioners are **urged to be cautious** to not interact with any people on the FMC Facebook page that you do not know. Many of the new followers are from overseas and may be trying to find someone to defraud.

**Pastor's salary adjustments** were addressed as he has completed one year at FMC. Treasurer Mike presented a worksheet from MCUSA showing the proposed salary increase with the additional year of service. ▼Mike moved to increase Pastor Josh's salary per conference guidelines from \$59,044 to \$64,775 effective October 1, 2023; seconded by Don Esau with an amendment that FMC's yearly HSA contribution of \$1,500 be shown on the Pastor Salary Guidelines Worksheet. Mike approved of the amendment to his motion. Amended motion passed on voice vote.

#### PASTORS REPORT:

1. He is nearing completion of his **Ordination** requirements and will submit the application for Ordination to the WDC Ministerial Leadership Commission soon. He anticipates Ordination to take place in November.
2. He and Chair Reimer will have an **introductory visit** next week with Summit Street Church's Pastor Andrew Dungan and their Church Council Chair Scott Wiens.
3. **Communion** will be celebrated at FMC on World Communion Day, October 1 at 10:30. In addition, an **ecumenical service with Communion** (including participants from churches involved with the Beatrice Ministerial Association) is being planned by Summit Street Church, the Church of the Brethren, and

First Mennonite to be held on October 1 at the Chautauqua Park Tabernacle at 1:30 p.m. Pastor Josh will be participating. There will be a potluck meal at noon.

4. **The Crop Walk** will be October 22 at 2 p.m. More information will be coming.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Mission, Peace, and Service Council:

1. Dan reminded everyone of the **Church Picnic this Sunday**, September 24 at Chautauqua Park Tabernacle at 5 p.m. Bring your own tableware.
2. **Las Companeros: A ball game with a potluck** will take place in October featuring the newcomer ball players. He has made connections with **Legal Aid of Nebraska** which may be useful for the newcomers to seek help when they have legal issues other than immigration.

**Worship Council:** Amanda met with Pastor today. Pastor Josh's current sermon series on the Lord's Prayer will continue through November 5. They are exploring using members "Faith Stories" during worship. Other things discussed included the November 5 All Saints Day service, Peace Sunday on November 12, a Thanksgiving service on November 26, Advent services, and the Christmas Program on December 17. They asked the board for **discussion on Christmas services**: whether two services should be held on Sunday, December 24 (regular 10:30 worship and Christmas Eve service) and whether a Christmas Day service should be held on Monday, December 25. No decision was made. The theme for Advent is "How Will We Know?".

**EDUCATION COUNCIL:** Debbie reported that the Sunday School and Peace Club have begun using the **Orange Curriculum**. There are **twenty kids participating in Peace Club**. The Council will meet on October 10 at 6 p.m.

### Building Council:

1. The **downspouts** were installed by Blue Valley Door.
2. The **elevator motor** was replaced by Plymouth Electric.
3. He will get **quotes for a cemetery fence and for trees** should the congregation decide at the annual meeting to put in one or the other or nothing.
4. A flickering **light in Pastor's office** will be looked at.

**Central Treasurer:** Reports were distributed. Mike reported that there were no unusual expenses for the month of August.

## Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 9:25 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 is Thursday, October 19 at 7:00 p.m. Dan Kunzman will have devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

*Vicki Frerking, Adm. Assistant*