FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH BOARD MEETING – September 17, 2026, 7:00 p.m. FMC Church Basement

Chair Brett Esau called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The lamp was lit symbolizing the presence of the Holy Spirit over the meeting. Attending: Brett Esau; Pastor Josh Janzen; Deacons Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Sue Gerber, Dorothy Zimmerman, Jim Ensz, Jane Esau, Grace Tegtmeier, Pastor Sarah Neher Reimer, and Adm. Assistant Vicki Frerking. Jim Ensz was in attendance for the Building Committee. Lori Thimm and Don Esau were absent. Pastor Sarah led devotions from The Book of Beginnings on Deut. 1. Devotions to be led by Grace in October, and Dorothy in November.

OLD BUSINESS

1. ▼Dorothy Zimmerman moved to approve the August **Board meeting minutes**; seconded by Sue Gerber. Motion passed.
2. The Sept 13 congregational meeting was discussed. The meeting was held to answer any questions or concerns congregants had regarding the Revised FMC Constitution and ByLaws. There were no issues or comments. If anyone has questions or concerns they are to bring them to the Review Committee of Pastor Josh, Brett Esau, John Penner, and Dorothy Zimmerman by November 1, 2026. The revisions will be approved at the Annual meeting on January 13, 2027.
3. Dorothy Zimmerman reported that the **July 23 – 25, 2027 FMC Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee** hopes to have the postcard invitations to current and previous members out of the area by October 1. They will need some technical help with the website to receive RSVP's. Pastors Josh and Sarah volunteered to help with this. They are in the process making a list of jobs and volunteers needed for the weekend celebration.
4. Chair Esau is contacting Gage County Emergency Management Director Lisa Wiegand to attend the October meeting to work with FMC on emergency plans.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ▼Dorothy Zimmerman moved to approve Pastor Josh Janzen's Memo of Understanding as presented by Chair Brett Esau; seconded by Sue Gerber. Motion passed.
2. Western DIstrict Conference MInisterial Leadership Commission (MLC), informed FMC that they have approved Ordination for Sarah Neher Reimer, Associate Pastor of Faith Formation, following her ordination interview. The Ordination will be planned for the spring of 2027.

PASTOR'S REPORTS: Senior Pastor Josh:

1. Beatrice Ministerial Association met and is discussing community issues of food insecurity and attainable housing with Food Net and Lutheran Family Services.

Associate Pastor of Faith Formation Sarah:

1. Fall programming has begun. Safe Church training videos and forms required are available online. Forms for background checks are due October 7.
2. Her job review and Memorandum of Understanding will be done by the Education Council in January.
3. Western DIstrict Conference MInisterial Leadership Commission (MLC), inform FMC that the MLC has approved Ordination for Sarah Neher Reimer, Associate Pastor of Faith Formation, following her ordination interview. WDC Associate Conference Minister Kathy Neufeld Dunn, liaison for First Mennonite-Beatrice, will coordinate with Sarah and congregational leaders to plan for a time in the spring to celebrate Sarah's ordination in a public service of worship.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mission, Peace & Service Council:

1. Dorothy Zimmerman reported that Shepherds have been assigned food to bring to the church picnic on September 27, Tracy Crawford will provide ice cream, and Dan Kunzman will provide pulled pork.

Worship Committee:

2. Paula Heinz will have a Children's Story activity of coloring "Starry Night" for Advent.
3. They've discussed how to involve youth more in worship to give them ownership.

Education Council:

1. They are planning the Christmas program and practices and Spring materials for Peace Club. .

Building Committee:

1. They made inquiry about a digital LED sign to replace the current sign by the highway. Many factors have to be checked before it can be brought to the congregation.
2. They are discussing how best to install a removal device for people to use to assist in getting up the steps to the chancel (choir, etc). Grace suggested they check the ADA website.

Central Treasurer: The August financial reports were reviewed.

Other Agenda Items: The Annual meeting will be on January 13, 2027.

With no further business, Chair Esau adjourned the meeting with prayer at 8:50 pm and extinguished the lamp, signifying that the Holy Spirit goes with us into the world. The next meeting will be on October 15.

Respectfully Submitted,
Vicki Frerking, Adm. Assistant