

FMC CHURCH BOARD MEETING AUGUST 15, 2024 7:00 pm

Chair Jerry Reimer 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 were Jerry Reimer, Pastor Josh Janzen, Dan Kunzman, Neal Trantham, Mike and Debbie Goossen, Larry Thimm and Adm. Asst. Vicki Frerking. Pastor Sarah joined the meeting by phone at 7:40 p.m. Absent: Don Esau, Sue Gerber, Vicki Hinz-Ensz.

OLD BUSINESS

1. ▼Dan Kunzman moved to **approve the July minutes** as presented; seconded by Mike Goossen. Motion passed on voice vote.
2. Chair Reimer thanked all who helped with the **WDC Annual Assembly**. This was a big undertaking and took the help of many to have things go smoothly. Pastor Josh said the WDC Assembly Committee will hold a review meeting on Tuesday, Aug 20. **It is the consensus of this group to suggest that future Annual Assemblies be held on the Bethel College Campus** where technology and IT staff are readily available, dormitories could house attendees, the cafeteria could serve the meals, travel expenses for WDC staff would be eliminated, and cost for attendees could be reduced. Pastor Josh will offer this suggestion to the WDC Committee.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

PASTORS REPORTS

Pastor Josh:

1. **LifeWise Academy:** Christ Community Pastor Dan Martin has talked with Pastor Josh about FMC participating in a proposed *LifeWise Academy* Christian education program for Beatrice Elementary School students for the 2025-26 school year. Christ Community is steering the program that gives elementary students the opportunity, with parental consent, to spend one hour per week off-campus during the scheduled school day to attend *LifeWise Academy* classes at Christ Community. He's proposing that 3-4 churches help with this. Each day, a different class of children would walk to Christ Community to attend a religious education class. The Beatrice Public School Board must give permission for this to happen. **LifeWise Academy** would be governed by the **LifeWise Academy Board** made up of representatives from the participating churches. The majority of FMC's Church Board expressed many concerns about participating in this endeavor. The minority felt that any opportunity to give Christian education to children should be considered. No board action is required at this time. Pastor Josh will read "*During School Hours*", the book Pastor Dan gave him to review, pray, and discuss this with Pastor Sarah and the Deacons. All will prayerfully discern if FMC should participate in the Academy before bringing it back to the Church Board. Those interested may find more information on the website: lifewise.org.
2. He reported that he is planning for a **Wednesday evening Bible study** class.
3. He and Stephanie are **not moving**.

Pastor Sarah:

Last month, I dedicated much of my work hours to the WDC Annual Assembly. In July and August, I spent over 40 hours on the assembly. This is about equivalent to half of the month of work. I am deeply grateful to Debbie Goossen, Sue Gerber, and Debbie Thimm (Summit Street) for their support.

When I wasn't working on the assembly, I was planning fall faith formation programming. Some of those tasks included recruiting volunteers, ordering and distributing curriculum, and creating schedules. I am grateful to Vicki Hinz-Ensz and Shana Ensz for their help! A fall schedule and descriptions of programs were presented at the welcome-back event on Sunday, August 18, and distributed in mailboxes. Although the workload has sometimes felt daunting, I am reminded that launching programs is like a plane taking off. It takes a lot of effort upfront, but once they are in the air they usually run smoothly (with some turbulence expected).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mission, Peace, and Service Council:

1. Dan reported that **Mennonite Men** have been asked to do two projects:
 - a) helping with a move,
 - b) and build a stable to be used at Christmas.
2. MPSC continues to **help the new Americans** move and secure furniture.
3. He has contacted Shepherds about what their groups should bring for the **Church Picnic** on September 15 at 5 pm at Chautauqua Tabernacle.

Worship Council: The small instrumental group that played on Sunday morning of WDC Assembly worship was well received. Neal will work on having small groups play more frequently.

Education Council:

1. Debbie Goossen reported that the Education Council voted to **budget \$3,000 for the Young Adult and Young Marrieds Retreat** held in February.
2. **Peace Club and Prayer Partners** will meet this Sunday for lunch and a service project picking up litter at Charles Park. Peace Club will begin regular Wednesday evening meetings on September 18 at 6:30 pm.

Building Committee:

1. Larry has been **watering the new trees** twice a week.
2. It's been suggested that a **retractable screen** be permanently mounted on the west wall of the basement.
3. It was also suggested that the **electrical plug** near there be redesigned with ground plugs and more outlets. Larry will look into this.

Central Treasurer: The July treasurer's report was reviewed and showed the normal expenses.

With no other agenda items, Chair Reimer adjourned the meeting with prayer at 8:15 p.m. The lamp was extinguished signifying that the Holy Spirit goes with us into the world.

The next meeting will be September 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Frerking, Adm. Asst.