

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH BOARD MEETING- July 17, 2025, 7 pm FMC Church Basement

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, Debbie Goossen, Mike Goossen, Pastor Josh Janzen, Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Pastor Sarah, Dan Kunzman, and Administrative Assistant Vicki Frerking. Absent were Sue Gerber, Doug Casey, Kathy Casey, and Don Esau. Mike Goossen led the group in devotions on Isaiah 28:16.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The **June meeting minutes** were approved as presented.
2. Chair Reimer asked for comments/**review of MC USA Convention** from Pastor Josh and Sarah. They reported there was a lot of energy. They liked that the adults and youth worshiped together. The next conference will be in Cincinnati in 2027.
3. **WDC Annual Assembly delegates** are Debbie Goossen and Dan Kunzman. They will carry 7 votes for FMC. (7-25-25, Vern Jantzen was added to the list of delegates for FMC.)

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Pastor Review Process:** Pastor Josh will begin his fourth year at FMC on Sept 1, 2025. Vicki Hinz Ensz outlined the pastor review process that will take place in August. A congregation survey will be distributed on August 3 with open-ended questions with a return date of August 17. A congregation vote will be taken on August 24.

PASTORS REPORTS

Senior Pastor Josh's Report

1. Pastor Josh reviewed the seminars he attended at MC USA Conference. He talked with AMBS representatives regarding a Bible Study "*Orienting with the Word*", a new program developed by AMBS's **Faith Formation Collaborative** to build community and biblical competency through Bible study. Here's a description of the program from AMBS website:
"For the five-month program, each participating congregation designates a small group to explore how their relationship to the Bible has formed them and to learn Confessional Bible Study — a life-giving practice that helps communities make the Bible an indispensable tool for navigating the ever-changing landscape of daily living. While two representatives from the group (a pastor and layperson) attend an in-person Confessional Bible Study Retreat and Training Seminar, no other travel is required for the program.
*Cohort One is in progress. **Cohort Two runs January 1 – May 17, 2026**, with the Retreat and Training Seminar to be held **March 12–14** at AMBS in Elkhart, Indiana. The program is free to participating congregations. [Apply by November 15!](#)"*
2. He attended the **Pastor Cluster group** meeting today.
3. **The Love Fund** (formerly the Deacon's Fund) has received increased emergency requests recently for assistance with rent, utilities, etc. after listing the fund on findhelp.org, ran by the Southeast Nebraska Collaborative. Pastor Josh explained that those requesting help are to apply for help through the SENE Collaborative who will help them find the help they need. When other help is unavailable, FMC's Love Fund can be an option.
4. **"Women of the Bible"** sermon series will conclude on August 17. A sermon series on the Beatitudes will begin in September.

5. He will be on **vacation** the last week of August. Pastor Sarah will preach on August 24 and Pastor Andrew Dungan will preach on August 31.

Pastor of Faith Formation Sarah's Report

1. Pastor Sarah **thanked the congregation** for their support of the youth.
2. The **Youth Group** met last evening for mini-golf and ice cream to welcome the incoming 6th graders.
3. She has met with Debbie Goossen and Vicki Hinz Ensz to make **plans for the fall education classes**. The SYF and JYF will meet individually this year.
4. She will hold a **resource event** on August 17 for the fall teachers.
5. On August 24, she will give **backpack blessings**, distribute Bibles to the youth, and introduce prayer partners for 2025-26.
6. She is initiating **Circles of Grace**, a two-lesson age-appropriate curriculum for children K-12, teaching children and youth to identify and maintain appropriate boundaries.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Missions, Peace, & Service Council:

1. Sewing for Babies has received a grant from Beatrice Community Healthcare and Hospital for new sewing machines.
2. Church picnic: Dan will be getting in touch with Shepherd Group Leaders about what their groups are responsible for supplying for the picnic.

Technology Committee: A new laptop was purchased for use in the church proper, and four microphones being used in the sanctuary.

Worship Council: Kathy sent her report: "Josh is continuing his "Women of the Bible" series and the committee is continuing to figure out ways to help him during his paternity leave. Our committee will meet again at the beginning of August."

Education Council:

1. They are still reviewing and updating the Safe Sanctuary policy.
2. All Wednesday evening activities will begin September 10.

Building Committee: Doug sent this report: "Cemetery clean-up morning was held a couple of weeks ago and quite a bit of dirt was used to level some gravestones and fill holes. Many thanks to Jim, Daryl, Duane, and Jarred Thimm for their help. Tracy Crawford is ordering parts for the air conditioners." **(Installation of new AC units for the office, library, nursery, and Sarah's office was completed today, July 17 by Crawford Heating & Air.)

Central Treasurer: Mike reported that the month of June showed a gain of \$600 in the general fund. Monthly income and expenditure reports are printed in the bulletins.

With no further business, Chair Reimer adjourned the meeting with prayer at 8:25 pm and extinguished the lamp, signifying that the Holy spirit goes with us into the world. The next meeting will be Thursday, August 21.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Frerking, Adm. Asst.