

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH BOARD MEETING February 19, 2026, 7 pm 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 were Brett Esau, Pastor Josh Janzen, Pastor Sarah Neher Reimer, Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Don Esau, Sue Gerber, Lori Thimm, Jane Esau, Jim Ensz, Dorothy Zimmerman, Administrative Assistant Vicki Frerking. Absent: Grace Tegtmeier; Building Committee chair Tracy Crawford with Jim Ensz present in his place. Don Esau led devotions.

OLD BUSINESS

1. ▲Jim Ensz moved to approve the **January Board meeting minutes** with the change of Sue Esau's name to Sue Gerber; seconded by Don Esau. Motion passed.
2. **Sesquicentennial celebration**: Debbie Goossen and Vern Jantzen are chairing the committee and will hold the first meeting in March. Anyone interested in serving on this committee should attend.
3. **Constitution/By-Laws Review**: A standing committee will be established to review the documents and present suggested updates and changes to the church board by October to get it on the agenda for the congregational annual meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ▲Lori Thimm moved to elect Jane Esau to be the **official Church Board Secretary**; seconded by Vicki Hinz-Ensz. Motion passed.
2. **Warren's Table Serving Schedule** was reviewed. ▲Don Esau moved that First Mennonite be responsible for serving the third Tuesday in February and the first Tuesdays of the remaining even numbered months in 2026; seconded by Dorothy Zimmerman. Motion passed. It was noted that this schedule will be revisited in November 2026 for 2027.
3. The board entered into Executive Session to review the **2026-2027 compensation for Associate Pastor Sarah Neher Reimer** as her hiring anniversary date was February 1. ▲Don Esau moved to follow conference guidelines for 2026-2027, setting her total package of salary and pension at \$34,706; Seconded by Lori Thimm. Motion passed. Following this discussion, the board moved out of Executive Session.
4. **Homestead Harmonizers** would like to perform at First Mennonite this summer. It is suggested that they come on July 5, followed by a potluck.

Senior Pastor Josh's Report:

1. He is offering a **church membership class** which will include an adult Baptism class if requested.
2. He is holding **premarital counseling sessions** with Ann Regier and her fiancé Daniel Scheer.
3. An **Ash Wednesday** service will be held on Feb 18.

Associate Pastor of Faith Formation Sarah's Report:

1. There are seven youth in her **Baptism class** with Baptism to be held this spring.
2. She accompanied several youths on a skiing trip to **Rocky Mountain Ski Camp**.
3. About twenty couples are planning to attend the **Adult Retreat** on February 20-21.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mission, Peace, & Service Council: Dorothy Zimmerman is exploring the direction she will take this committee over the next three years. She would like to educate the congregation on the service opportunities available both domestically and internationally.

Technology Committee: This is a standing appointed committee that is not represented on the Church Board and only needs to be on the agenda when upgrades, changes, etc are needed for technology. Chair Esau will check with Technology Chair Pam Kunzman if this committee report needs to remain on the monthly agenda.

Worship Council: Pastor Josh reported that a Readers Theatre will be added to Sunday services during Lent.

Education Council: Jane Esau reported that they met on January 13. The Safe Church Committee continues to work through the policy revisions needed. The youth classes on Sundays and youth activities on Wednesday evenings have begun again and are going well. The VBS Committee will meet April 7. Dates for VBS are May 26-29.

Building Committee: Jim Ensz reported that a taller toilet and grab bars will be installed in the women's restroom downstairs.

Central Treasurer: Treasurer Lori Thimm reviewed the financial reports with the board. She will continue to put monthly reports in the bulletin.

Other Agenda items: The Nebraska Quilting Guild has requested renting the church basement on September 12 for a district meeting. No food is involved. ▲Dorothy Zimmerman moved to allow them to rent the church basement for \$250; seconded by Vicki Hinz-Ensz. Motion passed.

With no further business, Chair Esau adjourned the meeting with prayer at 9:25 pm and extinguished the lamp, signifying that the Holy Spirit goes with us into the world. The next meeting will be Thursday, March 19 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Frerking, Adm. Asst.