

First Mennonite Church Board meeting February 27, 2025 – 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, Pastor Josh Janzen, Pastor Sarah Neher Reimer, Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Sue Gerber, Don Esau, Mike Goossen, Debbie Goossen, Kathy Casey, and Doug Casey. Dan Kunzman was absent. Sue Esau led devotions.

SSC and FMC Pastoral Presentation

Pastor Andrew Dungan from Summit Street Church and Pastor Josh gave a brief report before the meeting on the Alan Roxburgh course they've been taking, "*A Ministry of Relationships*". The course promotes "*setting tables*" to develop relationships where God can create something special. When people at these tables create, listen, and share conversations, opportunities arise to make things happen, and to be helpful neighbors in this world, creating a sense of hope. The *table* Pastors Andrew and Josh have set while studying the course has been a source of strength for them. They wonder what God could accomplish if *tables* were set with members from both churches. They feel the Spirit is leading them to guide the two churches into a new relationship, helping our neighbors who are hungry for community with God and each other. They are discussing this with leadership from both churches to see if there is interest in leadership coming together at a *table*. The church board thanked them for sharing what they're learning and for giving the board things to think about.

OLD BUSINESS

- Chair Reimer declared the **January meeting minutes** correct as presented.
- **Warren's Table serving schedule** is set for the year. Shepherd Groups are encouraged to trade dates with another group if they have conflicts with the schedule.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Pastor Sarah's Ordination Process:** She met with her mentor last weekend. She is a member of a Pastor Peer group and meets via Zoom with them monthly. She does not have a projected date for Ordination at this time.
- ▼ Vicki Hinz-Ensz moved to accept the proposed 5.8% **increase in Pastor Sarah's compensation** to \$38,000, which follows the MC USA/Everence salary guidelines for pastors; seconded by Debbie Goossen. Motion passed. Her 1-year hiring anniversary date was February 1. There was a discussion about whether the MCUSA/Everence guidelines should be followed exactly or if the board should consider the general state of the budget and offerings when calculating compensation. These guidelines will be reviewed before Pastor Josh's review and salary increase in September.
- ▼ Mike Goossen moved to give Pastor Sarah a \$50 per month **cell phone stipend** as it is used for work, and that she be compensated for church work mileage, excluding back and forth to work; seconded by Sue Gerber. Motion passed.
- **The March church board meeting date** is changed to Tuesday, March 18 due to church cleaning on Thursday.
- **The April church board meeting date** is changed to April 24 to avoid meeting during Holy Week.
- **Delegates to the MC USA Assembly** in Greensboro, NC July 25 receive a discount if registered by March 31. Pastor Josh plans to attend. Pastor Sarah will go with the youth group. One of them could be a youth delegate. FMC can send two adult delegates and one youth delegate.

PASTORS REPORTS

Senior Pastor Josh:

- He reviewed the **Cottage Prayer meeting responses**. It seems that Shepherd Groups are fulfilling their purposes.
- He will be **gone on March 2**.
- The **Young Adult Retreat is March 22** to March 23 in Lincoln. He asked if he could be gone that Sunday. The board encouraged him to find a replacement speaker if he can't be back to preach.

Pastor Sarah:

- Her first month back from maternity leave has been busy as she's trying to find a working-mom balance.
- Four youths and three adults attended the "**Know Jesus**" **Event** in Hesston on February 22-23.
- She is **preaching this Sunday** in Pastor Josh's absence.
- The **Young Adult Retreat** will be in Lincoln March 22-23 with a guest speaker. 28 people are planning to attend.
- She is assembling **Lent-at-Home kits** to hand out on Ash Wednesday.

- There will be a **youth group Fundraiser on April 27**. More information will follow.
- **VBS Dates** are May 27-30.
- The **spring Sunday school quarter** is planned and ready to go.
- The **Safe Sanctuary Committee** met and will be reviewing the policy. They'd like to **add members** Neal Trantham, Christina Lyons, and Grace Tegtmeier to their review committee. **The board approved.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Mission, Peace, & Service:** In Dan's absence, he provided the following:
- St. John's held a gathering recently for those wanting or needing to know more about **immigrant rights in our current political situation.**
- **The Church Picnic** will be on September 7 at the Chautauqua Tabernacle. There will be some surprises!
- **FMC continues to serve** in so many places every day.

Worship Council:

- A short service will be held on **Ash Wednesday** at 7:00 p.m., following the **Community meal** at 6:30 p.m..
- **Jerry Reimer and Lori Thimm** have been added to the Worship Leader rotation.
- **Worship themes:** The Anabaptist @ 500 sermon series is completed. The Lent series will begin on March 9.

Education Committee:

- Debbie attended the **Safe Church presentation** via Zoom and will serve on the review committee of the present policy.

Building Committee:

- **Church Cleaning** is set for March 20-21. Depending on the turnout, they will also have a cemetery work day with the Cemetery Committee at that time.
- Kathy and Doug Casey will continue to do the **mowing this year.**
- He is working on the **sign and light** south of the church, updating the lighting.

Central Treasurer's Report:

- Mike presented the financial reports. He added that the January offerings were very good, allowing the church to end that month with a positive balance of \$4,173.14.

Other Items: None

Adjournment: With no further business. Chair Reimer adjourned the meeting with prayer and the lamp was extinguished, signifying that the Holy Spirit goes with us into the world. The next meeting is March 18 at 7:00 p.m. Don Esau will have devotions.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Frerking, Adm. Asst.