

## FMC Church Board Meeting February 15, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Jerry Reimer. The lamp was lit symbolizing God's presence over the meeting. Attending were Jerry Reimer, Sue Gerber, Don Esau, Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Pastor Josh Janzen, Pastor Sarah Neher, Mike and Debbie Goossen, Dan Kunzman, Neal Trantham, Larry Thimm, Adm. Asst. Vicki Frerking. The meeting began with prayer.

### OLD BUSINESS

1. ▼Mike Goossen moved to approve the **January church board meeting minutes** as presented; seconded by Larry Thimm. Motion passed.
2. **Pastor Josh's Ordination service** and meal was reviewed. The bill from Colleen's Catering for \$1,366.23 has been paid.
3. The **March 3 WDC Listening Process schedule** was discussed. Pastor Josh is planning to have a non-traditional service in the basement with the round tables. It will begin at 9:30 and continue until 11:30. Discussion and worship will be interspersed. There will be no live stream that Sunday.
4. The Church Board will serve **Warren's Community Dinner Table on February 20**. Food assignments were made.
5. **Pastor Sarah will be installed** during worship on February 18, 2024 by Kathy Neufeld Dunn, Assoc. Pastor of Western District Conference.
6. Following tonight's meeting, Pastor Sarah will meet with Chair Jerry Reimer and Treasurer Mike Goossen to draw up a **"Memo of Understanding"** for her employment at FMC.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Jerry Reimer, on behalf of the Church Board, has requested ministerial credentialing for a **license for ordination** for Pastor Sarah from Western District Conference.
2. In response to a request for a donation for renovation of the **Mennonite Church of Berlikum, Netherlands**, an announcement will be put in the bulletin so members who wish to donate may do so. (This church is often considered the mother church for the Mennonite Church, where Menno Simons began his ministry, and hosts many visitors yearly.)
3. The **Homestead Harmonizers** have offered to come to FMC. Jerry will ask if they can come July 7 or July 14. A potluck meal will be served following that service.
4. ▼Larry Thimm moved that FMC again pay registrations and for a t-shirt for **youth attending Mennonite camps** this summer; seconded by Don Esau. Motion passed.

### PASTOR JOSH'S REPORT

1. Reported that he is working with Pastor Sarah on **Catechism Class**. She believes it's best to wait until a young person is in high school, (based on brain development studies), before beginning the class leading to their baptism. If parents or a young person are interested prior to that age, they may certainly talk with the Pastor's.
2. The **Ministerial Association** is planning an **Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service** at Chautauqua Park. More information will be available later. They are also discussing how to improve the partnership with the Los Companeros and discussing pulpit swaps.
3. **Leadership Beatrice** visited the Beatrice Public and private schools during their February meeting. In March they will visit the state legislature.
4. A panel discussion on **Poverty and Economic Disparity** in Gage County will be presented at the Beatrice Public Library on February 20 that he plans to attend.
5. Some **cemetery disturbances** were discovered indicating that an outside group had held or were planning to hold some type of ceremony. It appears that this ceremony is connected to a Cuban religion. The Sheriff's Department was called to investigate, and the items were removed. There was no damage done to the cemetery or headstones.
6. Pastor Josh asked the board if the hiring of an associate part time pastor changes **his official title** at FMC. No board action was taken.
7. He reported that Mother-to-Mother is opening a **Youth-to-Youth Recreation Center** in the basement of the City Auditorium. An open house will be held on March 10.

## **PASTOR SARAH'S REPORT**

1. She reported that the **SYF/JYF Super Bowl party** was a success. She is getting acquainted with the youth of FMC. She is comfortable in her office and exploring what her position involves. She has set a work schedule reflecting her part time status.
2. The two **Lent-at-Home workshops** were attended by seven families.
3. She will be teaching the **Jr. High Sunday School** as the teachers have stepped down. Studies will focus on the youth's connection to the congregation. They will explore the structure of the church body, its missions, and how the youth could participate in worship.
4. She is exploring **fundraising** ideas for JYF and SYF.
5. On March 27, she and Marci Regier will have dinner with the **youth and their Prayer Partners**, using the Lent-at-Home resources.
6. She is also looking at ways to **support adults in their faith formation**.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Mission, Peace, and Service Council:**

1. He will attend the Poverty and Economic Disparity meeting on Feb 20.
2. The NE MCC Sale Committee is getting information out regarding the sale on April 5 & 6.

### **Technology Report:**

1. Pam Kunzman has Pastor Sarah set up with a church email and Google Workspace.
2. Viewers suggested that the live stream show the power point screens during hymns and scripture readings. It also ensures we are in compliance with copyright licensing. This has been relayed to those who live stream.

### **Worship Council:**

1. The three-week series of faith stories has just finished, exploring how the church mission statement applies in members daily lives.
2. Their committee discussed whether the congregation should use battery candles on Christmas Eve rather than actual candles due to fire danger and the mess the wax can leave on the cushions. They have decided to continue to use real candles.
3. The committee has purchased ten music stands for the ensemble to use.
4. Neal is looking into access to free sheet music for the ensemble to use available through our streaming licenses.
5. The children's stories during Lent will follow the Lent-at-Home resource.

### **Education Council:**

1. Control of the SYF checking account has been given to the Central Treasurer. It is a separate line item in the account with a balance of \$1,976.26.
2. The JYF account is also in the Central Treasury with a balance of \$623.67.
3. Debbie attended (virtually) the MC USA Safe Church webinar. The Safe Sanctuary Committee will review the Safe Sanctuary policy to ensure compliance.

### **Building Committee:**

1. Larry reported that Church Cleaning will be March 14 and 15. (later corrected to March 21 & 22).
2. They will be repairing a roof leak in the secretary's office in the spring.
3. The red oak trees will be planted when the nursery says it's the right time to plant.

**Central Treasurer's Report:** He will make an announcement in church that the church general fund is in a negative position despite a transfer of \$10,000 which the congregation approved at the annual meeting.

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. Debbie Goossen mentioned that FMC will observe its **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** in 2026.
2. Pastor Josh observed that 2026 will mark **100 years** since the split of FMC and Beatrice Mennonite Church (now Summit Street Church).

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:25 p.m.. The lamp was extinguished symbolizing that God remains not only in this place but goes with us into the world. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Vicki Frerking