

## First Mennonite Church Board meeting January 16, 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, Mike Goossen, Debbie Goossen, Neal Trantham, Kathy Casey, Dan Kunzman. Don Esau and Doug Casey were absent. The outgoing members of the church board were invited to attend. Doug Casey was absent. Jerry Reimer led devotions.

### OLD BUSINESS

- Deb Goossen moved ▼ to approve the December minutes with this change: the motion to authorize up to \$20,000 from the **Faith Formation Everence** fund should have read to authorize up to \$20,000 from **undesignated Everence funds**. Motion seconded by Mike Goossen. Motion passed on a voice vote. The Annual Meeting minutes will reflect this change also.
- Chair Reimer asked for **suggestions for next year's annual meeting**. It was suggested to decrease the refreshments purchased, and that childcare could be offered during the meeting.
- **Annual Study Series:** Pastor Josh continues discussions with Pastor Dungan from Summit Street Church about the Annual Study Series.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Warren's Community Dinner Table** has asked that First Mennonite serve six times in 2025. It was decided that the Church board will serve the first date of February 18, the Youth Group and each of the four Shepherd Groups will serve the remaining five dates of April 1, June 3, August 5, October 7, and December 2. Pastor Sarah will determine which date the Youth Group will serve and then the Shepherd Groups will be assigned the remaining dates.

### Senior Pastor's Report

- Pastor Josh reported that he **replaced his church phone with an Apple tablet** and will use his personal phone for church calls. The church phone number of 402-228-2052 will be disconnected as of January 18 and the congregation has been notified several times. He would like a future discussion about receiving partial reimbursement for using his personal phone for church business.
- **Sermon Series:** The *"I Wonder..."* series will be interrupted with a four-week series on the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mennonites. The Lent series will begin on March 9.
- He requested to be **absent on March 2**. Pastor Sarah will preach that Sunday.
- He is looking for suggestions for those who would feel comfortable telling their **faith story** for worship services in the future.
- He continues to work with **Alan Roxburgh's virtual series "A Ministry of Relationships."**

### Assistant Pastor of Faith Formation Report

- Pastor Sarah said the Safe Sanctuary Committee will review the **Safe Sanctuary Policy**.
- The Jr. High Youth group will attend the **"Know Jesus" Youth Conference** at Hesston College in February.
- The youth groups will do a **fundraiser in March** to raise funds to attend the MC USA Convention next summer and the "Know Jesus" Conference.
- She is planning the **February Community Event** with Vicki Hinz-Ensz.
- She is working with Shana Ensz to plan the **Young Adult Retreat** on March 21-23.
- She will talk with the congregation about **responding to the Shine curriculum** as FMC is in a pilot program with Shine.

**Committee Reports:**

**Technology:** Midwest Sound and Lighting is scheduled to look at our mic set-up and offer suggestions for improvement.

**Missions, Peace, and Service:** Dan reported on the holiday dinner with the Los Companeros.

**Worship:** It was suggested that the Christmas Eve service begin at 5:00 p.m. rather than 6:00 p.m.

**Education:**

- **Community Time** at 9:30 on Sunday mornings will be discontinued.
- There will be **no Intergenerational Sunday School** this summer due to low participation.
- The **VBS theme** is Waves of Wonder. The dates have not been finalized.
- **The January 15 Community Event** was very interesting as Vicki Hinz-Ensz presented a program on FMC's history, "Did You Know?", to approximately 60 in attendance.

**Building:** Tracy Crawford has replaced some parts of the **heating units**.

**Central Treasurer:** Mike presented the financial reports and answered any questions.

**Other Items:**

- Vicki Frerking asked the Committee Chairs to please **review their section(s) of the handbook** on the website and let her know of changes needed.
- The **devotion schedule** for 2025 meetings was presented.

**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 February 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vicki Frerking, Adm. Asst.