

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH BOARD MEETING – June 26, 2026, 7:00 p.m. 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: Brett Esau, chair; Pastor Josh Janzen; Deacons Don Esau and Sue Gerber; Dorothy Zimmerman, Jim Ensz, Grace Tegtmeier (by phone), and Adm. Assistant Vicki Frerking. Absent: Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Jane Esau, Pastor Sarah Neher Reimer, and Tracy Crawford. Sue Gerber led devotions.

OLD BUSINESS

1. ▼Dorothy Zimmerman moved to approve the **May Board meeting minutes**; seconded by Sue Gerber. Motion passed.
2. Dorothy Zimmerman reported that the **FMC Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee** met Monday. The dates for the Celebration have been set for **July 23, 24, and 25 of 2027**. 'Save the Date' postcards will be sent out in October to previous pastors, transferred members, and current members. RSVP's may be done on the church website. The schedule will eventually be there also. Projects to commemorate the event include a 2027 church calendar, an updated church cookbook, and reprinting of "*God's Love in Action*" to include the past 50 years. There's currently no digitized copy of the history book written by former Pastor Don Diller, so reprint will be more labor intense with costs estimated at \$3,035. ▼Dorothy Zimmerman moved to pay \$1,527.50 (half) to Integrity Productions as a deposit so work can begin on the book; seconded by Don Esau. Motion passed. This price includes the church receiving a digitized copy. The history books and cookbooks will be available for purchase to recoup some of the printing costs.
3. Pastor Josh, John Penner, Brett Esau and Dorothy Zimmerman are working on a formal proposal of **Constitution and By-law changes** for the Church board to review before the Congregational meeting on Sept 13. The proposed changes will be presented to the congregation with an opportunity for questions, but no vote will be taken at that meeting. A vote on the changes will take place at the annual meeting in January 2027.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ▼Lori Thimm moved to elect Debbie Goossen as an **FMC delegate to WDC Annual Assembly** in Dallas, TX August 7-9; seconded by Dorothy Zimmerman. Motion passed. FMC will pay her registration fee. We are allocated 7 votes. Debbie will carry all 7 votes unless more delegates express interest and are elected to represent FMC, and then the votes will be split accordingly.
2. Brett Esau reported on his conversation with Gage County **Emergency Management** Director Lisa Wiegand on establishing an emergency protocol at FMC. Lisa believes our biggest emergency threats are weather related, our proximity to the Koch plant, and being located along Highway 4. She will come and help FMC leadership formulate and implement an Emergency Management plan.
3. **Beatrice Police Department's National Night Out** is offering a free booth for non-profit organizations at the August 20 event. It was determined that a booth is not needed.

PASTOR'S REPORTS:

Senior Pastor Josh: He has been getting in many member visits. He's receiving good feedback on his sermons. The new membership class is complete and members will be received on July 19.

Associate Pastor of Faith Formation Sarah: In Sarah's absence (Bible leader at Camp Mennoscah this week), she submitted the following report:

1. **VBS**- Was successful! The children had a meaningful and fun time and we are so grateful to all the volunteers.
2. **Baptisms**- I am deeply thankful to everyone who made the outdoor baptisms possible and successful. It was a special morning for the youth and the community.
3. **Safe Church**- I contacted Kathy Neufeld Dunn and our insurance company. I'm still waiting on feedback from Kathy, I will follow-up. The insurance company reviewed the policy, offered no comments, and will keep it on file. Since I was unable to attend the June meeting I will look to the July meeting to approve the policy.
4. **Youth Day of Service**- July 1st the youth will have a day of service with multiple service projects. This includes working at the food bank, projects at church, and possible weeding in a community garden. In the evening the Goossen's are hosting the youth for a pool party. The day will end with a lock-in at the church. The evening before the kids going into 5th and 6th grade will serve at Warren's table.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mission, Peace & Service Council:

1. Dorothy Zimmerman reported that Marisa Smucker, Executive Director of Mennonite Mission Network, Elkhart, will be at FMC August 9 presenting during Sunday School and giving the message during worship.
2. Jim Enszt reported that the 'newcomers' group' had been asked on June 30 to furnish a house for a Spanish speaking minister starting a church in Beatrice.

Worship Committee: No report.

Education Council: Will meet July 7

Building Committee:

1. Jim reported that the tree and stumps that were necessary to remove are gone.
2. Pastor Josh's window is fixed.
3. The AC condensation affecting the ceiling is being addressed and the ceiling being repaired.
4. The storage cupboard in the Sunday School room is ready for use.

Central Treasurer: Lori distributed and explained May reports and answered questions.

Other Agenda Items: None brought to the Board.

With no further business, Chair Esau adjourned the meeting with prayer at 8:50 pm and extinguished the lamp, signifying that the Holy Spirit goes with us into the world. There will not be a July meeting as a date couldn't be found when there would be a consensus of the board present. The next meeting will be on August 20.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki Frerking, Adm. Assistant