

FMC CHURCH BOARD MEETING JUNE 20, 2024

Chair Jerry Reimer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The lamp was lit symbolizing God's presence over the meeting. In attendance were Jerry Reimer, Sue Gerber, Don Esau, Pastors Josh Janzen and Sarah Neher, Dan Kunzman, Neal Trantham, Mike and Debbie Goossen, and Adm. Asst. Vicki Frerking. Vicki Hinz-Ensz and Larry Thimm were absent. Jerry Reimer led devotions on God's unconditional, unwavering love for us.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The May Church Board meeting minutes were accepted as presented.
2. The Homestead Harmonizers will lead the July 7 worship service with Pastor Sarah conducting the sharing and prayer portion of the service. The church board will set up and serve the potluck meal will include the Harmonizers and their spouses. Drinks and table service will be provided. Congregation members are encouraged to remember to bring extra food for the guests.
3. WDC Annual Assembly, August 2-4. WDC is expecting about 120 attendees. FMC may have up to 7 Delegates for the governing body meeting on Saturday. At this time we have three. If you are interested, please talk to Chair Jerry Reimer. All who are attending are required to register and pay the fee, which includes meals, snacks, and workshops. Information has been made available to the congregation. Pastors Josh and Sarah are on the WDC Planning Committee. WDC has taken care of reserving a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn Express for those coming from a distance. Pastor Sarah will be leading the Intergenerational Faith Formation workshops to be held at Summit Street Church. Registration is not needed for the worship services. WDC is in contact with Pam Kunzman and Neal Trantham for technology needs for the assembly.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. In the absence of a **Parental/Family and Medical Leave Policy** for FMC salaried employees, ▼Mike Goossen moved to adopt the parental leave as specified under the MC USA guidelines for Pastor Sarah Neher: *As a denomination that calls both women and men, young and old to ministry, it is crucial to support them in the various stages of their lives. We believe pastors thrive when family-life is prioritized, and monetarily supported. The following guidelines reflect this commitment. **Job-protected leave of up to 12 weeks will be granted to care for the employee's child after birth.** The congregation will provide up to eight weeks paid leave with the pastor using their vacation and sick time to cover the remaining four weeks. Health care coverage and retirement benefits during this leave is continued. It is understood that the pastor will assist the congregation in planning for the needed interim ministry required during the leave.* Seconded by Neal Trantham. Motion passed on voice vote.
2. ▼Neal Trantham moved the Board consider drafting a more specific Parental/Family and Medical Leave Policy regarding adoptions and foster placements for FMC salaried employees prior to the next board meeting. Seconded by Sue Esau. Motion passed on voice vote. A Committee of Pastors Josh and Sarah, Jerry Reimer and Dan Kunzman will formulate a policy to be brought to the July Church board meeting.
3. Vern Jantzen forwarded information received from Lyle Miller of Everence regarding matching fund qualifications and planning for major gifts given to the church. Vern will take care of the forms for Everence funds.

SENIOR PASTOR REPORT

1. Pastor Josh was gone this week for his Grandmother Janzen's funeral and a family reunion.
2. He will continue the summer sermon series on the Ten Commandments.
3. A private Anointing Service for family and friends of Justin Schardt will be held the evening of July 2.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF FAITH FORMATION REPORT

1. VBS went well and she was glad to establish more relationships with the little children.
2. She spent this week at Camp Mennoscah helping lead Camp with husband John.
3. She continues to plan the Summer Intergenerational Sunday School sessions.
4. She is working on Fall Schedules for Sunday School for all ages this fall and securing volunteers for Youth and Children.
5. She plans to use parental leave from early November to the first of the year, and vacation time for 4 ten hour weeks in January.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mission, Peace, & Service Council: The church picnic will be September 15 evening at the Chautauqua Tabernacle.

Worship Council:

1. Pastor Sarah will preach on June 23 and leading Sharing & Prayer on July 7.
2. A small ensemble will provide special music for the August 4 worship.

Education Council:

1. Debbie attended a MC USA Safe Church webinar on Tuesday suggesting background checks on those who work with the congregation's youth. Ed Council will discuss the information and bring suggestions for possible church policy changes/additions to the July meeting.
2. There were some sound issues during the VBS program skit noticed on You Tube and by those in church who are hard of hearing. This will be looked into.
3. Erin Vanderschaaf is resigning from the VBS Committee as she will be gone during 2025 VBS when she is chair. Education Council will bring suggestions for a replacement member to the Board for approval.

Building Committee: In Larry's absence, Jerry reported that Larry has been watering the new trees and inspecting the church building in preparation for the Annual Assembly here in August.

Central Treasurer: Treasurer Mike presented the financial reports and a review of the first six months of the fiscal year. He is hoping that having three offerings for FMC during June will help the deficit.

Other Agenda Items: None.

Adjournment: With no further business, Chair Reimer closed the meeting at 8:30 with prayer and extinguishing the candle, signifying that God not only remains in this place but also goes with us into the world. The next meeting is Thursday, July 18 at 7:00 p.m. Don Esau will lead devotions.

Respectfully submitted, Vicki Frerking, Adm. Assistant