

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH BOARD MEETING March 18, 2025, 7 p.m. 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, Mike Goossen, Don Esau, Debbie Goossen, Dan Kunzman, Doug Casey, and Administrative Assistant Vicki Frerking. Absent were Sue Gerber, Kathy Casey, and Vicki Hinz-Ensz. Don Esau led devotions.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The **February Board meeting minutes** were accepted as presented.
2. Jerry Reimer reported that he had talked with Everence about how the **pay scale for pastors** is determined. Everence uses the average consumer price index for the past 12 months to develop the per unit value formula. This information will be used in August when determining Pastor Josh's contract renewal.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **MC USA Conference delegates:** Pastor Josh will be attending as one of FMC's delegates. John Reimer will be traveling to the conference with Pastor Sarah and will consider being FMC's second delegate.

PASTORS' REPORTS

Senior Pastor Josh:

1. An ecumenical **Easter Sunrise service** will be held at Charles Park. Participating churches are FMC, Summit Street Church, and United Methodist Church. Following the service, refreshments will be served at UMC.
2. He will be participating in Beatrice High School **Baccalaureate** on May 7.
3. He and Pastor Sarah have created **Connection Cards** to be put in the pews. These cards will allow attendees to request prayers, instruction, pastoral visits, etc.
4. He will attend **the MC USA conference July 8-12, 2025** in Greensboro, North Carolina.
5. His studies with the **Companion's Table** are going well.
6. Dan Kunzman will be giving his Faith Story on **March 23** as Pastor Josh will be gone.

Pastor of Faith Formation Sarah:

1. She enjoyed attending the "**Know Jesus**" Conference at Hesston College with the youth. It is encouraging to watch their faith grow.
2. She prepared and distributed "**Lent-At-Home**" kits to church families after the Ash Wednesday service.
3. Summit Street Church children are being **invited to attend VBS** at FMC.
4. **Safe Sanctuary training** will be held on April 27, following the youth fundraiser meal that day.
5. There are currently two FMC youth planning to attend **the MC USA conference** in July. She is coordinating with several Kansas Mennonite churches to go as a group to help with travel and room accommodation expenses.
6. She will be on **vacation** March 28 through noon on April 3.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mission, Peace, & Service Council:

1. Dan ordered cards to distribute to immigrants with information in case they are contacted by ICE. These were distributed to the local businesses for immigrant customers, and to congregation members who are working directly with the immigrants.
2. The **church picnic** will be on Sunday, September 7.
3. As a member of the WDC Board, he reported WDC is creating a **statement of support** for the Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, KS in response to reductions in Federal funding that have led to reductions in staff and services.

Technology Committee:

1. **New microphones** have been ordered. Midwest Sound will schedule installation with Pam when they come in.

Worship Council:

1. The **Ash Wednesday service** went well.
2. **Maundy Thursday service** will be April 17 with a soup meal, foot washing service, and worship service following in the sanctuary. A sign-up sheet for the meal will be posted in April.
3. There will be no Wednesday evening activities during **Holy Week**.
4. The Council discussed with Pastor Josh possible **summer and fall sermon ideas**.

Education Council:

1. Debbie will attend the “**Kids Connect with Worship**” at Western District Conference on May 3. Other congregation members are invited to attend with her.
2. The **council will meet** April 8 at 6 p.m.

Building Committee:

1. Doug reported that he has built a **rack in the quilt storage room** for quilting stand equipment.
2. He will look into the **shingle damage** from the recent high winds.
3. He encourages anyone who notices **repairs needed to contact him** or other building committee members.
4. **Church cleaning** is this Thursday and Friday.
5. Repairing the **nursery ceiling and upstairs ceiling** are on the long term repair list.

Central Treasurer:

1. Mike presented the **February treasurer’s report**. The gain realized in January was reduced as general fund offerings in February were down.
2. Pastor Josh asked if **any church renovations or updates** are needed that the undesignated memorial monies could be used for. Board members expressed that it’s nice to have available funds in case HVAC needs arise or if the elevator would need to be replaced, etc. The funds are growing in an Everence account until they are needed.

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 will be Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 7 p.m. Debbie Goossen will lead devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Frerking, Adm. Asst.