

First Mennonite Church Board meeting November 21, 2024 7:00 p.m.

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, Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Mike Goossen, Larry Thimm, Debbie Goossen, Dan Kunzman, and Administrative Asst. Vicki Frerking. Absent were Neal Trantham, Don Esau, Sue Gerber, and Pastor Sarah Neher who is on maternity leave. Jerry Reimer led devotions.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The October Church Board **meeting minutes were approved** by acclamation.
2. Pastor Josh reported on his discussions with Summit Street Pastor Andrew about the **Annual Study Series**. They are considering Scholar Alan Roxburgh with the topic of discerning the Spirits movement in your community.
3. The **Nominating Committee** had no updates as a couple of positions are not filled on the ballot.
4. Treasurer Mike Goossen reported that the **proceeds from the MCC Mini-Auction** have been sent to MCC.
5. Pastor Josh blessed and prayed over the **cemetery** on All Saints Day, November 5, with Linn and Sue Gerber as witnesses.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **The annual business meeting agenda** will be finalized at the next meeting on December 19.
2. Larry Thimm agreed to be a **Nominating Committee appointee**. Names were suggested for the other spot to be filled. Chair Reimer will speak with the suggested people.
3. The board went into executive session at 7:45 p.m. to discuss **Pastor Josh's salary package, performance review, and the Corinthian Plan for 2025**. Treasurer Mike Goossen and Chair Jerry Reimer had previously discussed salary with Pastor Josh and reported on how the increase of approximately 5% was calculated. ▼Dan Kunzman moved to approve the salary package as discussed, effective at once; seconded by Mike Goossen. Motion passed unanimously on voice vote. ▼Dan Kunzman moved to continue to provide the Corinthian Plan at the same terms as last year; seconded by Larry Thimm. Motion passed on voice vote. The board moved out of executive session at 8:00 a.m.

PASTORS' REPORTS

Senior Pastor Josh:

1. He and Pastor Andrew Dungan continue to take part in the **Companion's Table** via Zoom, along with other pastors from the Central Plains District. Scholar Alan Roxburgh is leading the discussions on discerning where God is calling us now as the world is new and changed every day. He would like to take several remote training sessions with Alan Roxburgh. ▼Mike Goossen moved to support Pastor Josh taking the Roxburgh training and authorize payment to be made through the Jake T. Friesen fund which was given with the intent of Pastor education; seconded by Vicki Hinz-Ensz. Motion passed on voice vote.
2. He is actively working to make his sermons shorter.

Pastor of Faith Formation Sarah: There is no report as she is on maternity leave.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mission, Peace, and Service Council:

1. Dan reported that *Sewing for Babies* and *Mother to Mother* each received a \$250 grant from the Big Give. *Sewing for Babies* has also received a grant from Beatrice Community Hospital.
2. The next WDC Conference will be held in Hesston on August 8-9, 2025.

Technology Committee: No report

Worship Council: In Neal's absence, Pastor Josh reported he and the Council have been preparing for **Advent services**.

Education Council:

1. Debbie reported the **December 4th community event has been canceled** so Christmas program practice can be held then.
2. It was noted that Debbie has recently been named chair of the WDC Resource Committee.

Building Committee:

1. Larry reported he and Mike Goossen changed the property insurance deductible from \$2,500 to \$3,500 to offset the premium increase.
2. He has done various repair jobs at church. Eight outlets have been installed on the basement west wall to enable electronic presentations. The floodlight south of the church has been fixed.

Central Treasurer: Mike reported that the October general fund revenue was \$12,439.01. October's expenses were \$24,970.34. (Property insurance premium was \$11,008 and was paid in October.) He expects the general fund will be approximately -\$6,000 at the end of the fiscal year (November 30).

Other agenda items: Vicki Hinz-Ensz asked the board to consider how committees can have better continuity of expected duties after new members are elected. The board discussed various options which will be implemented.

Closing and Prayer: Chair Reimer adjourned the meeting with prayer at 8:45 p.m. The lamp was extinguished signifying that the Holy Spirit goes with us into the world.

The next meeting will be on December 19, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Frerking, Adm. Asst.