

FMC CHURCH BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 7:00 pm

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, Dan Kunzman, Don Esau, Sue Gerber, Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Mike and Debbie Goossen, Larry Thimm and Adm. Asst. Vicki Frerking. Absent: Neal Trantham. Mike Goossen led devotions.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The August meeting minutes were approved by consensus.
2. Pastor Josh reported that First Mennonite Church will not be partnering with Lifewise Academy at this time. Rather, he and church leadership are discussing finding the “well-worn paths” where we can help the community meet Jesus.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. On behalf of the **Nominating Committee**, Sue Gerber reported that the Nomination Suggestion Sheet has been made and will be in church mailboxes Sunday, September 22 with a return date of October 6, 2024.
2. **All Saints Day**: Chair Reimer will contact the suggested people to secure a speaker for All Saints Day. Due to the two events in and/or near the cemetery this past year, Pastor Josh suggested a reconsecration of the cemetery and those buried there be held on All Saints Day.

PASTORS REPORTS

Senior Pastor Josh:

1. He had a follow-up meeting with WDC following the **Annual Assembly** where he conveyed the Church Board's suggestion that the Assembly be held routinely on Bethel College campus. WDC said they had tried this in the past and it went poorly due to a number of factors. They will continue to rotate it among district churches.
2. He will set aside time on the first Wednesday evening of the month for people to meet with him to give **sermon responses**. He will put in the bulletin the times he is available.
3. **Annual Study Series**: He and Pastor Dungan are considering having Dr. Drew Strait speak in February or March on Christian Nationalism. His fee is between \$1500 - \$2500 plus travel and lodging. Dr Strait is Assistant Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins at AMBS and has written a book title “Strange Worship: Six Steps to Challenge Christian Nationalism”. Dr. Strait is giving a free zoom lecture on Christian Nationalism on Tuesday, October 8 at 7 pm (EDT). Registration is at AMBS.edu.
4. He will be **absent on October 27**. Katie Jantzen will fill the pulpit in his absence.

Pastor of Faith Formation Sarah:

1. All **fall programs** have started and are well attended. She is thankful for the volunteers helping with them.
2. She is getting out promotional materials for the **2025 KNOW JESUS** Jr. high youth conference at Hesston College on February 22-23, 2025.
3. She continues to work toward **ordination** and has a **licensing interview** on October 9.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Missions, Peace, & Service Council:

1. Dan thanked those who helped with the **Church Picnic** on September 15.
2. He reported that the **Mini Auction** will be October 20.
3. He reported that on October 12, childcare will be provided so the **Young Adults** to get together for an evening out.

Worship Council:

1. In Neal's absence, Pastor Josh reported that Communion will be held on **World Communion Day**, October 6.

Education Council:

1. Debbie reported that 65 people attended the first **Community Event** on September 11. The next Community Event will be October 9.
2. FMC is a **church partner for implementing Shine** youth curriculum.
3. **Ed Council** will meet on October 8 at 6 p.m.

Building Committee:

1. Larry has been **watering the new trees** twice weekly.
2. He is going to put a **larger window in Pastor Sarah's office door**.
3. He will be having Plymouth Electric replace the **church basement west wall outlet** so it can better serve the electrical needs when presentations are made there.

Central Treasurer:

1. Mike read a **thank you from Kathy Neufeld Dunn**, WDC Associate Conference Minister, thanking and complimenting FMC on a well-run Annual Assembly. WDC also sent a monetary donation to FMC for hosting.
2. He reported that there were normal expenses for August but **fairly small offerings for FMC**, resulting in a \$5,000 deficit. Monthly donations need to be about \$15,000 to meet expenses.

Additional Business:

Dan reported on behalf of the **Tech Committee** that the microphone in front of church has not been working for a while. Pam is looking at the cost of new wireless microphones and directional mics.

With no other agenda items, Chair Reimer adjourned the meeting with prayer at 8:15 p.m. The lamp was extinguished signifying that the Holy Spirit goes with us into the world.

The next meeting will be October 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Frerking, Adm. Asst.