

SALFORD MENNONITE CHURCH
CHURCH BOARD – Minutes
January 5, 2021

Members Present: Darin Benner, Ron Freed, Becca Nagy, Randy Nyce, Hannah Richter, Jane Ruth, Dean Wimmer, Margaret Zook

Absent: None

Also Present: Brad Alderfer, Sheldon Good, Maria Hosler Byler, Dorcas Lehman, Jenn Svetlik, Beth Yoder

1. **Devotions:** Ron Freed led the board in a time of devotion. Ron spoke on watching the television show Jeopardy. This is the last week that will feature Alex Trebek. Alex in his final weeks was struggling during taping and was asked what makes him go on. His answer was “because people like it”, which was important to him. Ron’s uncle passed away this week at age 94. His daughter took him into his home at the end where his family had two weeks together with him. He knew his life was coming to the end and he was settled with this fact and in good spirits. He found joy in good food at the end of his life, and also found solace in good restful sleep. It is good to ponder on the good things in life, and to appreciate all God give us that bring enjoyment to our lives. As we age, the routine feels like enough. Ron favorite scripture is the 23rd psalm, which bring him restfulness and joy as he recites many times per day. Ron recited the 23rd psalm to the board. Ron led the board in a time of prayer.

Randy recognized a time of thanks for Dean Wimmer and his board leadership, as Randy assumed the board chair this evening. The board will find a time to honor Dean at a later time when the board can be together in person.

2. **Fiduciary:**

December Minutes: The December congregational board minutes were reviewed. The minutes were approved as presented.

Financials:

- A. **Church November 2020 reconciled and December 2020 unreconciled income & expense reports and balance sheets** – See year-end excess funds conversation to follow. The board approved the November financials as presented.
- B. **Child Care balance sheet** – No balance sheet to review at this meeting.

3. **Discussion Items:**

- A. **Pastoral Search:** The board is excited that David Grieser gave the official yes to being our Lead Pastor candidate in mid-December. The board will announce this on January 10, 2021 during worship. Randy reviewed a potential pastoral transition timeline document with the board. Mosaic conference will meet with Dave on Thursday for their formal interview process. After Thursday, the board will have a response from Mosaic on any concerns they would have but expect an affirmative nod from conference. On Sunday, Randy and Margaret will make an announcement presenting David to the congregation with enthusiastic endorsement from the Pastoral Search Committee and Board. An introductory letter will be presented to the congregation with more information about David. Candidating weekend is being planned for February 5-7. Margaret is leading a candidating committee that is forming now, which will guide the candidating process. David will be informing his present congregation of this information on 1/10/21 as well. The board discussed what format the candidating weekend would take place under assuming the pandemic is still a concern. The group is considering the possibility of a prerecorded worship service and then a second session on zoom for interaction with David. The board will update the congregation on the coming announcement in the newsletter and Pastors video update. The plan is to follow-up the verbal announcement with a mailing to all participants. Linda Martin has also been leading a prayer team for the search process and this will continue during the candidating period. There is the possibility of having Dave join Sunday school classes on candidating weekend as well. The board discussed how much time is appropriate between candidating weekend and calling for an affirmation in the pandemic time. The board discussed how the affirmation would be conducted. The board expects it to be a combination of digital survey and paper mailing. Votes on affirmation will be received from members, with an opportunity for

regular participants who are not members to offer feedback, but not an official affirmation as per church bylaws.

- B. **Board Governance:** Two papers were given to the board on governance. A report on the role of the governance committee on the board, and a list of questions to give feedback to the committee. The committee also prepared a board profile sheet, and board members were asked to complete their personal information.
- C. **Justice Initiatives:** Sheldon Good & Jenn Svetlik joined the board for conversation on the justice initiative position. Beth Yoder introduced the background of how Sheldon and Jenn were invited to staff to give time to a Justice Initiatives position. The recognition of racism in America through the death of George Floyd and other black Americans became stark in spring of 2020. 60 persons from Salford met in June to process and reflect and respond to the George Floyd killing and subsequent protests. In July the board affirmed inviting Sheldon and Jenn to give time to the justice initiatives coordinator position. The staff has been very pleased with the efforts they have led on behalf of the congregation. There has been steady group of 20-25 who have met every other week to discuss racism and America and the church. Sheldon & Jenn have been gratified in the work and appreciate the effort that the congregation has undertaken. They presented some possible plans for anti-racism work in 2021, including continuing the Sunday evening gathering, board anti-racism work, and Second Hour classes engaging with anti-racism videos created by Tobin Miller Shearer. They asked the board for feedback on these possible plans. The board affirmed continued work by Sheldon & Jenn in this area, with specifics to be determined in conjunction with the board and future Lead Pastor.
- D. **Year-end excess funds:** We ended 2020 with \$771,340.90 in offerings and income, and \$726,032.99 in actual expenses. This resulted in excess funds for 2020 of \$45,307.91. The board discussed possible uses of these excess funds and determined the following disbursements for these funds:
- Remaining 2020 MCUSA, Churchwide, Conference payment to pay 100% of 2019 budget amount: \$9,863
 - Contribution towards 2021 MCUSA, Churchwide, Conference “below the line spending”: \$2,100
 - Living Branches Benevolent Fund contribution: \$2,500
 - Peace Proclamation Ministries: \$2,000
 - CRM’s and Local Missions (as surveyed with the congregation): \$10,000
 - Justice Initiatives extra budget staff position spending for 2022 at 5 hr/week: \$12,000
 - Racial Justice work fund for 2021/2022: \$3,422.45
 - MYF account deposit with no 2020 MYF auction income: \$3,422.46
- E. **Future meeting dates:** Randy is reviewing with board members on what day of the month is best to meet for the upcoming year. Randy will send a survey for response.

4. **Reports/Updates:**

- A. **Pastor’s Reports:** Beth reflected on the connections that were made during the Christmas season and the experience that we had during a different advent and Christmas season. Beth feels God spirit leading us in to 2021 in the theme of Gathering Strength. Dorcas reflected on the appreciation felt in the Christmas gift effort and brief interactions during those visits. Maria is continuing to process and explore how family faith formation is done in a pandemic. Dean expressed thanks for the effort that went into the Holiday season.
- B. **SMCCC minutes:** No SMCCC minutes to review at this meeting.

5. **Other Business:** None

6. **Closing Prayer:** Ron closed in prayer.

Respectfully recorded by Brad Alderfer
Next Meeting: To Be Determined