

SALFORD MENNONITE CHURCH  
CHURCH BOARD – Minutes  
February 16, 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, Maria Hosler Byler, Dorcas Lehman, Beth Yoder

1. **Devotions:** Jane Ruth led the board in a time of devotion. Jane spoke on how change is hard at any age. Jane’s mother passed away fairly suddenly last month. Jane read a list of emotions that came to mind through the death of her mother. We are experiencing so much change in so many areas. Jane holds fast to God as her rock and her center, even amidst the change. Jane led the board in a time of prayer.

2. **Fiduciary:**

**January Minutes:** The January congregational board minutes were reviewed. One correction noted, Becca Nagy was not in attendance at the January 5, 2021 meeting. The minutes were approved with the correction noted.

**Financials:**

- A. **Church December 2020 reconciled and January 2021 reconciled income & expense reports and balance sheets** – Income is down and expenses are up compared to January 2020, but financials early in the year can show wide variance due to multiple factors. Salford church and Child Care Center has applied for and received a second paycheck protection program loan to be used to support payroll. The board approved the December and January financials as presented.
- B. **Child Care balance sheet** – The Child Care balance sheet was provided to the church board for review.

3. **Discussion Items:**

- A. **Re-opening Committee:** Chris Miller was participating with the reopening committee as board representation. Chris is no longer on the board, so Randy and Beth are suggesting a new board representative on this committee. The re-opening committee will meet next Tuesday, on February 23. Small groups of youth are meeting in the sanctuary and there has been conversation on youth activities having less risk than adults. The number of new Covid-19 cases are declining rapidly across the nation and in Montco from the Holiday season high point.
- B. **Foundation and Education Fund Requests:** Brooke Martin and Tori Jones Long have requested Leadership funding for attending a Mosaic Mennonite conference institute class on Biblical interpretation. Brooke requests \$200 for taking the course (as a Mosaic Mennonite Staff member, who will also help fund her participation) and Tori requests \$300. The board affirmed funding these requests. There was a request from a parent of a Salford student to consider college scholarship funding for a student attending Messiah. The board reviewed the guidelines for college funding from the budget and Foundation funds. These both clearly state that the funding is for Mennonite institutions. The board suggests they do not favor an exception but could consider the guideline

language in the future if something else better fits the needs of the congregation. **The board declined this request for an exception.**

- C. **Transfer of Membership-Wilbur Bauman:** Wilbur requested his membership at Salford to be transferred to Community Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg, VA. He also requested to retain associate membership at Salford. **The board affirmed these requests.**

4. **Reports/Updates:**

A. **Pastor's Reports:** Beth reflected on the gathering held after the January 6<sup>th</sup> Capitol insurrection. Over 60 gathered for this event, and it was a meaningful reflective time for those who gathered. Beth is also aware of some who found the riot and the political conversation around it at Salford as a reason for further distancing from the congregation. Beth also reflected the number of deaths we have been experiencing during the pandemic. We have had 8 deaths of members in the congregation since June, and many more deaths of close family members during this time. The staff has discussed a possible grief and loss service or gathering to acknowledge and grieve these losses. A board members suggests a possible spring outdoor gathering. The board acknowledged the concerns of some who may be distancing from the congregation, and also a hope to recognize those who have joined virtually over the past year and also those who have been born and growing as children during this time of separation. Can we celebrate this in some way? Dorcas also reflected on the theme of grief. She has been trying to help small groups connect during this time and thinks small groups in the future might be helpful for reconnecting once it is safe to do so. She also offered her blessing for the board in their executive time in reflecting on the results of the Lead Pastor Ballot. Maria noted her reflections on her time spent in family ministry and youth ministry, and how to balance her time in these responsibilities. She continues to be challenged about her focus and how she spends her time in both roles.

B. **SMCCC minutes:** Ron gave brief update on Child Operations and Child Care finances.

5. **Executive Session:** Receive and review Lead Pastor ballots.

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

Respectfully recorded by Brad Alderfer  
Next Meeting: March 16, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.