

SALFORD MENNONITE CHURCH
CHURCH BOARD – Minutes
March 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:** Becca Nagy led the board in a time of devotion. Becca spoke on hope. Hope in the longer days, changing of season, outdoor and indoor gatherings, new treatment options, gathering with friends and family. Hope for strength and resilience, deeper connection, new pastor joining the team, perspective, new life in the congregation and in Jesus. Becca read from Hebrews 11:1.

Becca led the board in a time of prayer.

2. **Fiduciary:**

February Minutes: The February congregational board minutes were reviewed. The minutes were approved as written

Financials:

- A. **Church February 2021 reconciled income & expense report and balance sheet** – Our February income and expense reports shows strong February offerings and income with as expected expenses. Year to date finances have improved over same period 2020. A Second PPP loan has been received and will help cover some staff expenses for 2021, and also Child Care staff expenses. The board approved the February financials as presented.
- B. **Child Care balance sheet** – Funds in the Child Care balance have decreased over the first two months of 2021 with limited enrollment and tuition due to Covid-19 restrictions. The Second PPP loan will cover Child Care staff expenses through spring and early summer and will help improve the Child Care balance sheet heading into the fall.

3. **Discussion Items:**

- A. **Re-opening Committee:** The board reviewed the last re-opening committee meeting conversation and recent proposal guiding how we will return to in person worship. Darin Benner summarized the meeting and the plan that has been put in place. The board affirmed the plan that has been put in place and supports the work of this committee and the guidance they are giving to the congregation. The board took a vote of affirmation for the Re-opening proposal as presented. the board is very grateful for the work that has been done and each member of the Re-opening team. One question asked is if we could have an outdoor streaming option available while inside worship if happening. This will be explored.
- B. **MCUSA Assembly Attendance:** Salford can send five delegates to convention and one youth/young adult age 16-21 on behalf of Salford. Maria is asking for guidance from the board on the potential of youth attending the convention in person. The youth convention will be hybrid with options for in person or virtual participation. The convention has worked hard to make the virtual convention viable, but Maria is not feeling the experience of virtual convention will be fulfilling for the youth. Maria is considering all options (attending, attending virtually with other local youth, Salford only virtual attendance, or participating in an alternate service type project locally) and asked for board insight on how to proceed. Maria has heard responses from eight families/12 youth on what their interest may be, which Maria shared with the board. There is no clear consensus on interest in attending in person/attending

virtually/doing alternate service. The board brainstormed some options for Maria and the youth to consider. The board also discussed adult representation. There will be no resolutions considered at Assembly for 2021; the adult sessions will be virtual only. David Greiser has indicated openness to being a delegate on behalf of Salford. It appears that the adult delegate session will be condensed to one day, afternoon only. Beth and Randy will further consider adult delegate participation.

- C. **Transition Team:** The pastoral staff, David and Randy met today to think through job descriptions and roles. Randy felt it was a productive helpful meeting. Randy and Margaret will further develop transition team needs. Beth expressed appreciation for the meeting and further defining team roles and the Beth/David overlap time before Beth's mini-sabbatical. Staff and board would like to do a state of the congregation meeting after Dave begins. The board will move the May 18th board meeting to May 25th to allow for this conversation to occur after Dave has some time to immerse himself in the life of the congregation. There is also hope to do a board and staff retreat in the late summer. Randy sensed a good spirit among everyone in the meeting today.
- D. **Development Committee:** Margaret has been working on board transitioning. Chris Miller ended his time on the board on 12/31/21. The board development committee has been working on board needs. The board did a brainstorming session on what skills or perspectives might be missing from the board, and why those types or skills may be missing. The board recognizes a need for a person to assume the chairperson position when Randy Nyce completes his time as chair.

4. **Reports/Updates:**

- A. **Pastor's Reports:** Beth Yoder shared about the Lent Blessing effort and how the congregation has responded to simple gestures and short visits and other types of contacts. We also have a hope for Holy Week for acknowledging and remembering the loss of the past year and also embracing the hope for what is to come. Maria reflected on the two youth one day retreats. Dorcas is enjoying helping the oldest members connect on Zoom. She has found the connections meaningful.
- B. **SMCCC minutes:**
The board received a request from Ken & Melody Byler to transfer their membership from Salford to Maple Grove Mennonite Church in Belleville. The board affirmed this request and again expressed their appreciation for Ken and Melody's contribution to Salford over the years.

5. **Executive Session Notes from 2/16/21:**

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

Respectfully recorded by Brad Alderfer
Next Meeting: April 20, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.