

SALFORD MENNONITE CHURCH
CHURCH BOARD – Minutes
May 5, 2020

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Brad Alderfer, Maria Hosler Byler, Beth Yoder

1. **Devotions:** Randy Nyce led devotions for the board meeting. Randy shared about prayers of lament and prayers of encouragement from a Pastor in Italy. Randy then read some words of encouragement and lament from Walter Bruggeman, from a piece titled Not the God we would have Chosen.

Randy led the board in time of prayer

2. **Fiduciary:**

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

Financials:

- A. **Church March 2020 reconciled and April 2020 unreconciled income & expense reports and balance sheets** – The board reviewed the March reconciled and April unreconciled financials. Income and expenses through April 2020 are down from April 2019 (See further conversation below). The board approved the March financials as presented.
- B. **Child Care balance sheet** – The March Child Care balance sheet was not available for review.

3. **Discussion Items.**

- A. **Financial Update:** Offering was strong for April, and expenses are trending below budget for 2020 with one open Pastor position that has not yet been filled, and some facility expenses are reduced with the closure of the church building due to Covid-19. Members have been using the new online offering system, donating \$24,000 through this system for offering and donations to the Shalom fund and Agape fund. Total donations received for the Shalom fund to date are \$14,400 and for the Agape fund to date are \$4,800. The board is grateful for the congregation's generosity for needs in the community and beyond. Salford has applied for a Paycheck Protection Program Loan to support payroll for our Child Care employees. The PPP loan was approved by Uninvest and the Small Business Administration and closing documents for the loan have been signed. Once funds have been received, we have 8 weeks to use the funds for salaries and utilities. The expectation is that these funds will be used in a way to get the loan forgiven as a grant, and we will immediately repay any funds not used for salary and utilities.
- B. **SMCCC Status:** Child Care has been closed since March 13, 2020. Child Care has been paying 2/3 salary and benefits for 3 payrolls and is now conserving the funds they have remaining. PPP loan funds will pay four payrolls for church and Child Care at full salary and benefits. The timing for reopening the Child Care program is not yet known.
- C. **Welcoming Conversation – next steps:** Some Sunday School classes and individuals at Salford have contacted the Church Board to encourage further conversation on further defining our welcome. The Church Board and Pastoral Search Committee recognize that further defining our welcome will be helpful for Pastors considering the Lead Pastor position. The Church board has been working on a draft survey to gauge the personal convictions of individuals in the congregation on fully defined welcoming. The board reviewed the survey that has been developed. An introduction will be needed to update the congregation on the work that has been occurring. The goal is to have this survey out by the end of the month with two weeks for responses. A video introduction will be produced to be part of the introduction to the survey. Hannah Richter is willing to work on the introduction piece with others.
- D. **Funeral Policy during COVID-19 "season":** Holding a funeral during this time of social distancing has not yet been needed. The Pastoral staff would find it helpful to have a board policy in place on how

we would approach a funeral during this time. Beth Yoder presented state guidance on where we stand in Southeastern PA with social distancing and large gatherings. There are differing opinions on whether to hold or wait on having memorial services during this time. How do we balance the needs of families during times of grief with limits in place to maintain the safety of all? **The board directs that during the red stage of Covid-19 social distancing criteria, the church will not be used for any gatherings.** During the yellow stage of criteria, small group gathering could be considered. Burials can occur outdoors in the cemetery, following the criteria in place for social distancing.

- E. **Re-opening...issues, criteria:** The Pastors would like the board to develop criteria on how we approach reopening. By the criteria presented from Montgomery county and the southeast region, we may be some months or more away from meeting in a more normal fashion. What will be the new normal for the coming months? The board discussed Peace Camp and other youth activities. SWAP has canceled all summer youth trips and most churches have cancelled or postponed their summer Bible school gatherings. The board discussed Peace Camp options. Is there volunteer energy to attempt to plan alternative type of Peace Camp? Do we have the resources to hold this safely? Could we prepare a simple video message promoting peace camp ideals as a remembrance of the past and looking towards the future? Can we give parent options to do with families? **The board directs that in person Peace Camp will not occur for 2020.** Maria will review potential alternative options with the Peace Camp committee, to see if there is energy for planning any alternatives to traditional Peace Camp. For church reopening, Beth reviewed a document prepared by the Methodist Churches of Eastern PA. Beth will share this document with the board. Beth and Maria would like to have a team in place to guide the reopening conversation. The board will further discuss the reopening team concept at the June board meeting. **The board would like communication to the congregation on what our understanding is presently on potential reopening of in person activities.**

4. Reports/Updates:

- A. **Pastor's Reports:** Beth Yoder reflected on the intensity of work during holy week. Maria reflected on the intensity of setting up new routines and she is now assessing how these things have been working and where to go from here.
- B. **Search Committee update:** Monthly search committee meetings have continued, and the prayer team has been active. The congregational information form and supporting documents have been sent to conference leadership, so the information is now live. The interview process during Covid-19 will need to be considered.
- C. **Covid-19 Support Team:** There has been conversation among leadership on upcoming benevolent needs in the congregation. The Deacons and Pastors would like to identify a new team to guide helping members in need due to the Covid-19 crisis. This group would respond to needs that come, and to encourage needs to be identified for mutual aid. \$12,000 will be made available to this group for needs that arise in the congregation, and more can be made available in the future if needed. Dean will begin contacting possible members to ask for their willingness to serve.
- D. **Roofing project status:** The roofing project was on hold until at least April 30, 2020 with recent financial uncertainty. Based on continued loss of shingles, the board affirmed moving forward with the project. George Gaugler will contact the roofing company to schedule the start of the project.

5. **Other Business:** None.

6. **Closing Prayer:** Randy Nyce closed in prayer.

Respectfully recorded by Brad Alderfer
Next Meeting: June 2, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.