

SALFORD MENNONITE CHURCH
CHURCH BOARD – Minutes
June 2, 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:** Becca Nagy led devotions for the board meeting. Becca shared about how the events of the past week have left her at a loss for words. Becca talked about a devotional she found on the Cry of the Oppressed. She discussed the repeated acts of God in scripture to respond to injustice. God has a repeated pattern of responding to injustice and helping the helpless and oppressed. God call us to respond in similar action to injustice. May we always hear the cry of the oppressed as Jesus did and respond. Becca read a passage from the Diary of Anne Frank as a beacon of hope in any circumstance.

Becca led the board in time of prayer. Dean called us to review Glen Guyton's piece on Costly Peacemaking.

2. **Fiduciary:**

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

Financials:

- A. **Church April 2020 reconciled and May 2020 unreconciled income & expense reports and balance sheets** – The board reviewed the April reconciled and May unreconciled financials. Income through May 2020 is very similar to May 2019 and expenses through May 2020 are down from May 2019 (See further conversation below). The board approved the March financials as presented.
- B. **Child Care balance sheet** –

3. **Discussion Items:**

- A. **Financial Update:** Congregational tithes and offering have been generous, with income matching 2019 through May. Expenses through May 2020 are down significantly, with the open Pastor position, reduced building expenses due to the Covid-19 shutdown and with Salford receiving a PPP Loan on May 6, 2020. PPP Loan funds covered approximately \$32,000 of spending in May for Salford, and also covered full payroll for the Child Care program. With PPP loan funds, SMCCC employees will be paid full payroll from March 13 through July 16th, 2020, for which we are grateful. The board expresses sincere thanks to the congregation for your faithful giving. This continued support for the budget and for giving outside of Salford through contributions to the Shalom Fund and Agape fund will help so many in the community and beyond. With expenses trending below budget for 2020, this will allow us to be generous to Child Care, the larger church, local conference, conference related ministries and others. Salford will consider further helping the Child Care with cash flow after the PPP Loan funds are used. This will be reviewed at the July 21, 2020 board meeting.
- B. **Child Care Re-opening Plan:** The Child Care program is planning to reopen on Monday, June 8th as an essential business under the yellow phase of reopening for Montgomery county. They expect lower attendance numbers in the early stages of reopening. Children and employees will be screened and have temperature taken as they arrive before they enter the building. Parents and other adults will not be able to enter the building. We ask that Salford folks using the

building during this yellow phase of reopening enter at the Pastors office only, wear masks and observe social distancing, and consult with office staff before entering any Child Care area.

- C. **Re-opening Task Force:** A reopening task force met on Tuesday, 5/26/20 to discuss reopening consideration as Montgomery county moves toward the “Yellow” phase of re-opening on June 5. The Pastors are very grateful for the tone and attitude of the group and their conversation. The main emphasis is to go slow and think this through as we approach re-opening. Online worship will continue for the foreseeable future regardless of how in-person activities proceed at Salford. This team will meet every other week for the next period of time. We plan to be continuing our online worship pattern for the yellow phase of opening, with considering some level of small group activities and outdoor worship possibilities. We have great technology available to us, and good persons to lead alternate activities. The board affirmed a cautious approach to re-opening, with listening to the guidance of our medical professionals.
 - D. **Congregational LGBTQ+ Survey:** A survey of personal convictions on full participation of LGBTQ+ members has been finalized. The survey will be offered as an online survey, and a paper copy for those who need. The board will produce a video introduction to the survey and this introduction will also be in written form for the paper survey. The board discussed the proper timing of releasing the survey with the recent events in the country. The board will look to release the survey in the next 2-3 weeks.
 - E. **Interim Associate Pastor:** The board interim search sub-committee met with a potential candidate for Interim Associate Pastor, and then met with staff for further conversation. A job description for this position will be produced by Beth Yoder followed by further conversation with this candidate.
 - F. **July Meeting:** The board will meet on July 21st, and then plan to not meet in August.
4. **Reports/Updates:**
- A. **Pastor’s Reports:** The pastors are using a calling schedule with the Pastoral Visitors for weekly or bi-weekly calls to our older members, and those with limited social contacts. Calling circles have been setup for those in times of crisis or special needs. The Pastors have also been considering what work would be helpful and hopeful for the congregation to do in the racism/anti-racism conversation that is ongoing. Maria is working on calling each family with children during the time of Covid-19 to discuss challenges and opportunities that families are finding in this time. The children’s education team is also exploring options for family faith formation when we can’t meet together in person. The board expressed appreciation to both Beth and Maria for the leadership they have been providing in so many ways that could not have been anticipated, as well as for the meaningful worship times that are being done virtually.
 - B. **Lead Pastor Search Committee update:** The congregational information form is live and out in the public. A classified advertisement will be published in the The Mennonite and Mennonite World Review.
5. **Other Business:** None.
6. **Closing Prayer:** Becca Nagy closed in prayer.

Respectfully recorded by Brad Alderfer
Next Meeting: July 21, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.