

SALFORD MENNONITE CHURCH
CHURCH BOARD – Minutes
September 1, 2020

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

Absent: Becca Nagy

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

1. **Devotions:** Darin Benner lead the board in a time of devotion. Darin spoke on a Bible study book he has on images of God. He reflected on an Exodus Bible passage. God appears in the passage as an awesome apparition, not to be tamed. Darin reflected on the mystery of God.

Darin lead the board in a time of prayer. Dean also asked for prayer for Grace Anders and her emergency surgery.

2. **Fiduciary:**

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

Financials:

- A. **Church July 2020 reconciled and August 2020 unreconciled income & expense reports and balance sheets** – The board reviewed the July reconciled and August unreconciled financials. Income through August 2020 continues to run slightly behind previous years while expenses continue to be greatly reduced. The board approved the July financials as presented.
- B. **Child Care balance sheet** – The Child Care Balance sheet continues to hold steady with much unknown in future income and enrollment. State grants from the CARES act have helped with funds for Child Care.

3. **Discussion Items:**

- A. **Congregational LGBTQ+ Survey Conversation:** Dean introduced the conversation on the LGBTQ+ survey as the main focus on the agenda tonight. Beth was asked to offer some opening words. Beth recognized the weightiness of the conversation and gave thanks for everyone's willingness to engage. Dean called the board into honest conversation on what the survey results evoke from each person, and what is the best way to present the survey results to the congregation. It was again stressed that this survey was for the purpose of measuring current personal convictions of the Salford congregation in the areas of LGBTQ+ welcome and inclusion as part of the pastoral search process. This is not for the purpose of making decisions or initiating changes. After taking considerable time to hear from and carefully listen to each other, a list of bullet points was developed to share with the congregation from this survey. Darin Benner will take a first approach at drafting a document for presenting a narrative of survey results to the congregation. A draft of this document will be shared with the board when completed. If needed, further conversation will take place at the next board meeting to finalize this document.
- B. **2021 Budget First Draft:** The first draft of the 2021 budget was presented. This first draft was reviewed by the finance ministry team with no recommended changes. The draft as presented indicates a 0.6% increase from the 2020 budget. The board recognizes that 2020 is a unique year for income and expenses for the church with all the Covid-19 related changes, which makes forecasting for 2021 more difficult. The board did not suggest any specific changes to

the draft at this meeting. The board did direct that the specific below line funding for Peace Proclamation Ministries be consolidated into the pool of below the line funds for Conference Related Ministries and Local Mission to be voted on by the congregation. The board will have further conversation on the 2021 budget draft at the October meeting.

- C. **Mennonite Heritage Center Foundation Fund Request:** A Foundation Fund request was presented by the Mennonite Heritage Center for supporting their Harvest Festival, which will also support the Conference shalom fund and Bean Bag school lunch project. The Harvest Festival will take the place of the Apple Butter Frolic event for 2020. The finance subcommittee of the board gave a recommendation to support the project **and the board affirmed this request for 2020 Foundation Fund funding**.
- D. **Membership Withdrawal Request:** Sandy Alderfer made the request to withdraw his membership from the Salford members rolls. Beth met with Sandy and was appreciative of Sandy's openness and the good spirit of their conversation. **The board affirmed this withdrawal of membership with a sense of sadness and loss.** Gail Alderfer is at present continuing her membership at Salford.
- E. **Outdoor Gathering Space:** A request was received by the board from a church member to consider construction of a pavilion somewhere on the church grounds. This would provide shelter for gathering outside the church building, and could be useful beyond the pandemic. Similar suggestions have been made in the past, but no formal exploration of such a building was ever done. The board asked the trustees to explore feasibility and options for further consideration. Recognizing the time required if such a project were to happen, and the current need for a sheltered area outside the building for certain youth programs to take place, the board asked the trustees to explore temporary options, such as a tent rental, for the fall season.

4. **Reports/Updates:**

- A. **Pastor's Reports:** Beth highlighted the plans for the fall preaching and worship schedules. The Pastors are exploring the possibility for an outdoor worship in conjunction with a livestreamed service on September 13th. The work of calling through the congregation is continuing and feels like good connections and information for the staff and members. Maria is feeling very positive about Jenn Svetlik beginning in her role and feels good about the fall children's Christian education program with the adaptations needed due to Covid. Maria also feels good about recently finding additional youth sponsors for the youth program and these programs are now fully staffed. Dorcas expressed appreciation on being part of the team. Dorcas is hearing good words of appreciation from the congregation for the community at Salford. This is joyful work for Dorcas.
- B. **SMCCC Minutes:** None available for review at this meeting.
- C. **Lead Pastor Search Committee update:** The search committee has begun some preliminary interview with multiple candidates. The group feels good about this progress.

5. **Other Business:** None.

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

Respectfully recorded by Brad Alderfer
Next Meeting: October 6, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.