

SALFORD MENNONITE CHURCH
CHURCH BOARD – Minutes
August 17, 2021

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

Absent: None

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

1. **Devotions:** Margaret Zook led the board in a time of devotions. Margaret read a passage from Ann of Green Gables. She shared a reading from Amandus Brown about what prayer is like, and what God is like. Margaret read a passage from a Rhythm of Prayer.

Margaret led the board in a time of prayer.

2. Fiduciary:

June and July 2021 Minutes: The June and July congregational board minutes were reviewed. The June 2021 Minutes were affirmed. The July 2021 minutes will be reviewed again and affirmed at the September meeting.

Financials:

- A. **Church July 2021 reconciled income & expense report and balance sheet** – Our July income and expense report shows offerings and income up and expenses comparable to July 2020. The board approved the July financials as presented.
- B. **Child Care balance sheet** – No balance sheet available for this meeting.

3. Pastor's Reports: Dave reviewed outdoor worship and suggested that there may be one more time of outdoor worship in late September. Dave reviewed the planning for the fall worship series, which will be reentering into conversation on the vision and mission planning work that was done in 2019. Dave has spent time in working with team members in transition and what the leadership team may look like moving forward. Dave participated in his first funeral at Salford, as part of the service for Howard Freed. Maria has wrapped up her planning for youth Sunday school and events for the fall and passed on the necessary information to other staff members for continuity. Maria is savoring the time remaining with the staff as her maternity leave approaches. The planning for fall children Sunday school and nursery continues to be complicated with the unknowns around Covid-19. Additional volunteers are needed, with the understanding that everyone is re-evaluating their commitments and roles and responsibilities in life. Maria mentioned the release of the report from the DSA investigation at Dock Mennonite Academy. Maria reflected on the things Dock has done well and some things she wished had been handled differently. Maria will draft some reflections on her thoughts and a possible response to Dock based on the report. It was also mentioned that Mosaic Conference will be producing a response to the report as well. Dorcas Lehman mentioned that the team is brainstorming the possibility of second hour sessions focused on the Stewards of a Holy Calling work that has been completed and the work to be done. There is also the idea of a Second hour session on in person conversation around the survey results.

- A. **Beth Yoder Transition:** Beth Yoder reviewed her recent letter to the board announcing her retirement, and the journey that led her to this place. Beth also reflected on her journey to decision to officiate a same-sex wedding as a retired pastor. In 2019 Beth and Jerry had conversation on what Jerry's retirement meant for her work future with no clarity at the time. Two significant events impacted Beth journey, Joe Hackman's departure from Salford and the impact of Covid-19 on Salford and society. Jerry had hope to work part time, but Jerry's health concerns and Covid-19 led him to retirement. Jerry's health concerns are presently being controlled well with medication. But these health concerns are reminders that we are not given guarantees with health

and our future. The board expressed thanks and gratitude to Beth for her service to Salford. The suggestion was given for the board to make a statement following Beth's announcement to congratulate, recognize and celebrate with Beth on her retirement. Beth verified with the board that she is planning to announce her retirement, planned for late November 2021, on 8/22/21 and will include mention of officiating the same-sex wedding as something she is anticipating post retirement. The suggestion was made to follow up Beth's announcement with an email/ mailing to all members.

4. Reports/Updates:

- A. **Financial Update:** Income for 2021 is up 6% and expenses are comparable to 2020. Barring significant surprises in offering/income or expenses for the rest of the year, we project to be in good position to cover all expenses for 2021.
- B. **SMCCC Minutes:** SMCCC continues with a strong cash position and continues to seek additional employees to be able to increase enrollment back to pre-pandemic levels.

5. Discussion Items:

- A. **Development Committee, Board Member Affirmations:** Aaron Bishop was affirmed with 100% affirmation to join the board. Aaron will join the board meeting in September. Darin Benner recently submitted his resignation to the board and the board offers their thanks to Darin for his service over the past year and a half with the board. The board will communicate with Darin to schedule an exit interview as part of the end of his time with the board. The board development committee will consider options to replace Darin on the board.
- B. **Board Retreat:** Creedence and Company has offered a proposal to guide conversation at board retreat in having difficult conversations. The board has decided that not enough time is available at retreat to commit to the IDI process and may take this up at a later time.
- C. **Mosaic Conference Delegates:** Salford is allowed five at large delegates for Mosaic Mennonite Conference Assembly and we presently have 3 committed. Randy Nyce will fill a one year term to fill one slot. Randy will have conversation with other in attempt to fill one remaining slot by the deadline of August 20, 2021.
- D. **Salford Foundation Fund Request:** The church board received a request from Zach & Tori Jones Long to assist their niece Ranita Demarco in a year of service with the MCC SALT program in Zimbabwe. The board feels this fits well with the present Foundation Fund guidelines supporting youth and adults participating in service. This request was affirmed by the board.
- E. Steve Kriss Mosaic Conference Executive Minister related a request for consideration for the Foundation Fund College Scholarship to an ethnic minority member in a Mosaic Mennonite Church. The board affirmed this \$2,000 college scholarship to Wideline Charles of Solidarity and Harmony Church in Philadelphia. This church is a recent church plant among persons predominantly of Haitian background, led by Pastor Bernard Sejour. Wideline is participating in planting a new church in Florida with the support of Solidarity & Harmony Church and Pastor Sejour. Solidarity & Harmony has been meeting for 10 years and started as an Eastern District Conference congregation.
- F. **Worship Start Time Survey Results:** Staff reviewed the results of the worship start time survey with the board. The largest group indicated a preference for 9:30 a.m. start time for worship with Second hour to end no later than 11:45 am, with the earlier and later start time also receiving some votes. The board has no objections to the 9:30 a.m. start time, so we will proceed with that starting September 12, 2021.

6. Closing Prayer: Margaret Zook closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully recorded by Brad Alderfer
Next Meeting: September 21, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.