

SALFORD MENNONITE CHURCH
CHURCH BOARD – Minutes
July 20, 2021

Members Present: Darin Benner, Ron Freed, Becca Nagy, Hannah Richter, Jane Ruth, Margaret Zook

Absent: Randy Nyce, Dean Wimmer

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

1. **Devotions:** Darin Benner led the board in a time of devotions. Darin spoke on his recent case of shingles and the pain it caused. A family member mentioned the Biblical story of Job, so Darin decided to reread the story and reflected on his situation. God allows Satan to do anything he wants with Job as long as he does not kill Job. This does not sit well with Darin, but Darin reflected on a more powerful God than he can imagine, and our role is to praise the God of creation and see our existence as a complex biological entity who sometimes just needs to sit waiting until our painful rash goes away.

Darin led the board in a time of prayer.

2. Fiduciary:

June Minutes: The June congregational board minutes were reviewed. Two changes were requested to the board minutes. **The June minutes will be further reviewed at the next meeting.**

Financials:

- A. **Church June 2021 reconciled income & expense report and balance sheet** – Our June income and expense report shows offerings and income up and expenses down compared to June 2020. The PPP loan received in March has been used to cover staff payroll for church and the Child Care program through June. Forgiveness will be requested for this loan in the coming months **The board approved the June financials as presented.**

- B. **Child Care balance sheet** – Child Care cash on hand remains strong with the positive impact of the PPP loan, and outlook for the coming fall enrollment looks positive.

- A. **Pastor's Report:** Dave reflected on the first sermon series which concluded a few weeks ago. A new sermon series will start this week in the old testament looking at the story of Jacob and Esau. Dave has enjoyed the calls and personal visits as part of the calling through the congregation effort. Dave is very appreciative of the meals and hosting of him and Anita over the past few months, really enjoying the expanded palates of the local community. 25 persons joined Dave and Anita for conversation on Sunday evening, with much laughter and many questions for Dave & Anita. Dave & Anita have moved to a new temporary home on reliance road, hopefully for the next few months and then moving to a more permanent rental. Dorcas reflected on a few questions that are live in her mind with regathering as a body; who is the strongly committed core at Salford and who are outward bound from and inward bound into the congregation? Dorcas reviewed her questions. Which ministry team will need to be reenergized or reorganized for September 12th? What is our sense of the level of well-being within the congregation? Are further opportunities needed to meet and become familiar with Dave and Anita? What is needed next as Beth reenters the team and Maria prepares for maternity leave? What is the process for reentering into important conversations in the congregation? There are welcoming cards at the Welcome center that are out of date. One example of the need to review ministry teams and roles and responsibilities. Maria enjoyed working with the youth in the service project week and planning for the youth led worship on July 18th. Her work this month has been focused on the youth service week and worship. Maria is focusing on wrapping up her youth responsibilities before maternity leave. Maria brought an urgent giving need to the board's attention for Mennonite Churches in Indonesia who are organizing vaccine distribution needs in the country. Indonesia is experiencing one of the more severe covid outbreaks at this moment. Mosaic Mennonite Conference will match any funds raised for this project. Salford has many connections

with the Indonesian churches in Mosaic conference and some feel the call to vaccine equity around the world. We would be joining this effort developed by Philadelphia Praise Center Congregation. **The board affirmed a special offering for this need.** Margaret and Maria will work on an announcement for the newsletter. Beth Yoder reflected on the eagerness and lightness she felt returning to work today after the end of her sabbatical. She reflected on the helpfulness to have space to step away for these six weeks and the beauty and joy that the gifted plant has brought to her home. Beth had meaningful time with a retreat on the Connecticut coast and time each day with a spiritual director.

- B. **Welcoming Conversation:** Beth Yoder expressed her reflections during sabbatical, her Biblical understandings of Jesus, and her desire to explore with the board the possibility of her officiating a same sex wedding as a Salford Pastor. Beth acknowledged her understanding of the realities of her pastor role at Salford and the responsibilities of that role. The board reflected and responded with their own understandings of Jesus and understanding of the congregation. The board acknowledged they would not be able to make a decision on affirming a Salford pastor performing a same sex wedding at this time.
- C. **Staffing:** Dorcas Lehman's memo of understanding and job description have been updated to reflect the role continuing through Maria Hosler Byler's maternity leave. **The board affirmed these changes and Dorcas's continued participation through November 30th, 2021.**

3. Reports/Updates:

- A. **Financial Update:** Income for 2021 is up 8% and expenses are down from 2020 with receiving our second Paycheck Protection Loan earlier in the year than 2020. Our first Paycheck Protection Loan was fully forgiven from repayment in late April. Barring significant surprises in offering/income or expenses for the rest of the year, we should be in good position to cover all expenses for 2021.
- B. **SMCCC Minutes:** The Child Care Center is in a strong financial situation with PPP loans and grants. The center would not have survived without these loans. The Center will be doing work and repair items to the playground and shed, and the Centers will be investing some money into retention bonuses for staff. It has been a challenging environment to retain and recruit new staff for the center.

4. Discussion Items:

- A. **Development Committee, Board Member Affirmations:** Aaron Bishop was invited and has accepted the call to be a board member if affirmed by the congregation. **The board affirmed presenting Aaron to the congregation for affirmation as a board member.**
- B. **Board Retreat:** The board has developed a plan for a facilitator to move us into mission and vision conversation and for help in growth for having difficult conversations as a board. Three facilitators were discussed as possibilities for leading conversation. The development committee will explore these options. A preference was raised for having a facilitator with no previous ties to the congregation. The board will also focus on an IDI with Chantelle Todman from Mosaic Mennonite Conference leading. The board will reflect on our role in antiracist discipleship as a leadership body. There will be 6 weeks of introspection work leading up to the meeting. The board affirmed pursuing these two directions for Board development.

5. Closing Prayer: Darin Benner closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully recorded by Brad Alderfer
Next Meeting: August 17, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.