

SALFORD MENNONITE CHURCH
CHURCH BOARD – Minutes
June 15, 2021

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

Absent: Becca Nagy

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

1. **Devotions:** Hannah Richter led the board in a time of devotions. Hannah spoke on Romans 5:3-4. This verse is significant for the Richter's with Ari's epilepsy journey. It also reflects on feelings around the Covid-19 pandemic. Endurance has come from moving through difficult circumstances. Hannah has been prioritizing what is worth the fight, as it has been difficult relating to some who have different beliefs on medication, politics and faith. Ari has been four months seizures free and they now have vaccinated friends and family they can choose to relate to. Hannah can see the light at the end of the tunnel and sees how suffering has produced character and hope. Hannah shared a song that has been meaningful recently.

Hannah led the board in a time of prayer.

2. Fiduciary:

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

Financials:

- A. **Church May 2021 reconciled income & expense report and balance sheet** – Our May income and expense report shows offerings and income up and expenses down compared to May 2020. The PPP loan received in March is being used to cover staff payroll for church and the Child Care program through June. The board approved the May financials as presented.
- B. **Child Care balance sheet** – Child Care assets on the balance sheet continue to increase as the PPP loan and other grants are used to cover payroll and other expenses. These loans and grants have been very helpful to the program as income has been unpredictable due to Covid-19 shutdowns and decreased enrollment.

3. **Pastor's Report:** Dave reflected on the joy that comes from new relationships and meeting new people. Dave is enjoying meals in member's homes and meeting with persons who come early to worship on a Sunday morning. Dave is enjoying living in the country and they are continuing to work on selling their house in Baltimore. Dave is learning much about the congregation and how Salford relates in community. Maria has joy in relating to families with newborn and young children. She has been working with families to think through what participation looks like presently for unvaccinated children. Dorcas values helping people think through what coming out of the pandemic looks like for them. Dorcas is finding challenge in helping Second Hour classes think through what their classes may look like coming out of pandemic and what their teacher/leadership situation is.

- A. **Welcoming Conversations:** Dave is aware that the welcoming conversation is a live conversation in the congregation. Dave characterized his understanding of different groups in the congregation and their connection to welcoming. Dave asked the board how

they see their role in leading this conversation, and how they may be a non-anxious presence. The board recognizes there are those who have left over the welcoming conversation, and those who have joined because Salford has moved towards welcoming. The board's role is to know ourselves first, and to prioritize how we focus congregational life over the coming year. The board needs to know how to approach this conversation internally first to be able to process well. Do we need outside resources to help us process as a board? The board believes an outside resource will be helpful in conversation. The board presently does not believe we have one mind on welcoming and other issues. **The board affirmed exploring a facilitator to help the board understand for themselves as a leadership body how we have difficult conversations related to the welcoming conversation and other issues.**

- B. **Staffing:** Dave is working with the board to review the totality of the Pastoral staff team related to Beth and Maria reducing their percent time in their role.

4. Reports/Updates:

- A. **Financial Update:** Income for 2021 is up 4% and expenses are down 7% 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:** Cash balance is at an all-time high. Enrollment is looking more positive for the future.

5. Discussion Items:

- A. **Development Committee, Board Member Nominations:** Two persons have declined the invitation to consider joining church board. A third person is presently considering it.
- B. **MCUSA Convention Delegates:** No delegate actions this year. Salford may not send delegates but may make a financial donation based on delegates who would have attended.
- C. **Board Retreat:** October 1-2. Randy will be organizing a committee to plan board retreat. One focus will be developing the boards Intercultural Development Inventory.
- D. **Board Development Plan:** Randy and Dave will be meeting with each board member to review their interests and passions on the board.

- 6. **Closing Prayer:** Randy Nyce closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully recorded by Brad Alderfer
Next Meeting: July 20, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.