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3 **CHURCH BOARD MINUTES**
4 Bethel College Mennonite Church
5 May 6, 2021, 7 p.m., Zoom

6 *Our faith in a God of love leads us, by the power of the Spirit, to follow Jesus in doing*
7 *justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God.*

8
9 PRESENT: Elizabeth Schmidt, Dale Schrag, Pat Friesen, Judy Friesen, Bill Swartley, John
10 Kliewer, Erin Brubacher (8:15 on)

11 Not Attending: Cynthia Linscheid, Glen Ediger

12 STAFF PRESENT: Pastor Dawn Yoder Harms, Pastor Renee Reimer

13 Staff not attending: Mike Claassen (Financial Manager)

14 1. **Welcome and Centering Prayer** (Elizabeth)

15 This is the last meeting of this program year. After a moment of silence Elizabeth led
16 us in a prayer from the worship resources printed in the new hymnal, *Voices*
17 *Together # 953.*

18
19 2. **Consent Agenda** - April 8, 2021 board minutes, pastors' reports, and online minutes
20 of commissions and committees were all available online or distributed earlier.
21 **Consensus approval was given by a show of hands on the screen.**

22
23 3. **Financial Report** – April 2021 financial report – The report had been distributed
24 earlier. Mike was absent. **Action: Judy Friesen moved to accept the financial**
25 **report; John Kliewer seconded the motion; the motion passed with unanimous**
26 **approval.**

27
28 4. **Roof Repair – Leak** A leak in the ceiling of the Open Circle classroom (known as the
29 bell tower area on the roof) needs to be fixed. The Facilities Committee verified the
30 immediate need for repair, received bids for repair of that section of the roof and
31 recommended a contract with Wray's Roofing for approval by the Finance
32 Committee, and after that the Church Board. \$7,884.90 is the estimated cost. There
33 is enough money in Plant Fund to pay for it. After discussion in the Finance
34 Committee it was forwarded to the Church Board for final approval. **Action: Dale**
35 **Schrag moved we approve a contract with Wray's Roofing for roof repair of the**
36 **bell tower area; Bill Swartley seconded the motion; the motion passed with**
37 **unanimous approval.**

38
39 5. **Policy Update- BCMC Website Policy.** Our current Website Policy was approved in
40 2014. Proposed revisions were distributed to board members earlier. **Pat Friesen**
41 **moved we approve the revisions; Judy Friesen seconded the motion; the motion**
42 **passed with unanimous approval.**

- 44 6. **Appointments for Board-Appointed Committees.** Two vacancies are pending: one
 45 for Facilities and one for Bethel College Church Relations.
 46 **Dale Schrag moved to officially affirm appointment of these committee members.**
 47 **John Kliewer seconded the motion; the motion passed with unanimous approval.**

ASSISTANT TREASURERS	Lois Goertzen	2023		FINANCE	Al Peters, chair*	2022
	Nancy Hilty	2022			Judy Friesen*	2022
					LaVern Stucky	2022
FACILITIES	Ron Preheim, chair*	2022			Gwen Neufeld*	2023
	Ron Peters*	2022			Paul Harder*	2023
	Steve Schurr*	2023				
	Lowell Stucky*	2022		AUDITING	Diane Born	2022
	???	2023			Megan Leary	2022
					Roger Juhnke	2023
GIFT DISCERNMENT	Dale Schrag, chair*	2023				
	Norma Johnson*	2022		SCRC	Heather Zerger, chair*	2022
	Elaine Prouty*	2023			Mary Goering*	2024
	Frank Stucky*	2022			Vern Preheim*	2023
					Jim Mininger	2025
BCRT	Darlene Dick	2023				
	Carol Flickinger	2022		ESSC	Aaron Tschetter	2023
	Dick Koontz	2023			Jim Mininger	2022
	Richard Reimer	2022			Glen Ediger	2023
	???	2023				

- 48
 49 7. **Ordination Discernment** (Pastors Dawn and Renee)
 50 Pastor Renee is completing her second year with our congregation. She is discerning
 51 her sense of call for ministry. She has met with a selected group of congregational
 52 members to help her with this decision. She has just completed a spiritual retreat
 53 and has completed her reflections to submit with her Candidate Questionnaire for
 54 Interviews with Western District Conference and Ministerial Leadership Commission

55 in the coming weeks. **Dale Schrag moved we recommend Pastor Renee Reimer for**
56 **ordination; Bill Swartley seconded the motion; the motion passed with unanimous**
57 **approval.** Moderator Elizabeth Schmidt will write a letter of referral to Western
58 District Conference.

59

60 **8. Abuse Prevention and Response Committee – review proposed policy and procedure –**
61 **listening circle - (This policy was emailed to all church members on Monday, May 3)**

62 This policy work began with the Safe Sanctuaries Task Force in 2018. Faith Trust
63 Institute was hired to provide feedback on previous drafts and recommended
64 combining BCMC’s current Guidelines for the Safety of Children and Youth (approved
65 in 2006) and the new policy drafts that included adult survivors and offenders in our
66 midst. This 2021 policy draft structure is based on a template from Faith Trust
67 Institute, previous work from the BCMC Safe Sanctuary Task Force, other Mennonite
68 Church’s policy ideas, and has been reviewed by outside survivor-centered experts.

69

70 This policy is structured into 4 categories and will be presented on the website in the
71 following ways to ensure information is readily available when needed: Introduction
72 and Purpose, Abuse Prevention, Abuse Response, Forms and Resources.

73

74 The Abuse Prevention and Response Committee (Jill Robb, Dale Schrag, Jim Robb,
75 Bethany Schrag, and Yolanda Kauffman) and the Pastoral Team (Dawn Yoder Harms,
76 Renee Reimer, and Nathan Koontz) requested that all feedback, comments, and
77 questions come through an online survey form to allow the church to be able to
78 intentionally address them in helpful ways. Committees, Sunday School groups, and
79 small groups were encouraged to take time to discuss this policy draft together using
80 the survey form’s questions as guidance. During the Church Board discussion of this
81 proposed policy the clerk recorded comments and submitted them online within the
82 survey form.

83

84 On behalf of the church board Elizabeth Schmidt expressed appreciation to the
85 committee for their work.

86

87 **9. Congregational Project Tithe - listening circle TABLED**

88

89 **10. On behalf of the entire church board, Elizabeth expressed thanks to outgoing board**
90 **member Erin Brubacher for her past four years of service on the board.**

91

92 **In honor of Rosalind Andreas, to acknowledge her spirit and presence among us as**
93 **a church board member until her death, Pastor Dawn lit a candle and the board**
94 **observed a moment of silence.**

95

96 **11. Other business.** Dale Schrag expressed thanks to Pastor Dawn for allowing singing
97 through masks at last Sunday’s worship. Erin Brubacher expressed thanks to Pastor

98 Dawn for being our fearless pastor and sticking with us through turbulent times this
99 past year.

100

101 **12. Executive Session began at 8:40 pm and the session ended at 8:46 pm.**

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103 **13. Adjourned at 8:47 pm.**

104

105 Respectfully submitted,

106 Pat Friesen, Clerk

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