

1 **Bethel College Mennonite Church**
2 **CHURCH BOARD MINUTES—Pending approval at August meeting**
3 **June 3, 2021 7 pm Fellowship Hall**

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

6 **Board Members Present:** Elizabeth Schmidt (moderator), Ada Schmidt-Tieszen (moderator-elect), Pat
7 Friesen (clerk), Glen Ediger, Judy Friesen, John Kliewer, Cynthia Linscheid, Lois Preheim, Dale Schrag, Bill
8 Swartley

9 **Board Members not present:** Adam Robb

10 **Staff Present:** Dawn Yoder Harms (pastor), Nathan Koontz (associate pastor), Mike Claassen (financial
11 manager)

12 **Staff not present:** Renee Reimer (associate pastor)

13 **Others attending:** Al Peters, Finance Committee

14 1. **Welcome new board members, Centering Prayer** – Elizabeth Schmidt opened the meeting,
15 welcoming all to the first in-person meeting in over a year due to covid-19 restrictions. After a time of
16 silence, a reading of the litany in *Voices Together* #968, replacing “you” with “us”, was used as a
17 meditation.

18
19 2. **Board Covenant** - Elizabeth welcomed new board members Lois Preheim and Ada Schmidt-Tieszen
20 (moderator-elect). Section 2B in the Church Board Handbook was read in unison, affirming the duties
21 of church board members. Updated documents of the Website Policy were added to members’
22 Church Board Handbooks.

23
24 3. **Consent Agenda** - May 6, 2021 board minutes, pastors' reports, and online minutes of commissions
25 and committees were all available in advance of the meeting. They were **approved by consensus**.

26
27 4. **Financial Report** – May 2021 financial report (Mike Claassen) – Mike reviewed this year’s giving trend
28 in comparison with annual records since 2006. The giving trend in the past month is positive.
29 Although income is less than expenses, the difference is slight.
30 **Action: Judy Friesen moved to accept the Financial Report, Glen Ediger seconded; the motion was**
31 **approved by a unanimous show of hands.**

32
33 5. **Finance Committee Proposal establishing Bethel College Mennonite Church Investment Fund – Al**
34 **Peters**

35 The proposed allocation will be in a moderately conservative allocation with Everence Praxis funds
36 (60% equities and 40% fixed income) to produce greater capital appreciation. In the past 12
37 months earnings on \$300,000 was \$360. The Praxis funds do have socially conscious guidelines.
38 Judy Friesen clarified that the amount of money in the checking account needed to be reduced.

39 **Action: Pat Friesen moved that:**

40 *The church board approves the Finance Committee’s recommendation that the church invest \$200,000*
41 *from the current Everence money market account and the checking account into a new Everence fund*
42 *that will be called the Bethel College Mennonite Church Investment Fund. It will not be an endowment*
43 *fund. John Kliewer seconded; the motion passed unanimously.*

- 44 6. **Appointments for Board-Appointed Committees – Action: Dale Schrag moved to accept the**
45 **appointments of**
46 **a. Facilities Committee –Abe Turner, 2-year term**
47 **b. Bethel College Relations Team –Ron Flickinger, 2-year term**
48 **Judy Friesen seconded; motion approved unanimously.**
49
- 50 7. **Abuse Prevention and Response Policy (APRP) approval process and threshold –** Currently, groups
51 are reviewing and submitting feedback on the proposed policy. The threshold for an acceptance of
52 the proposed policy needs to be established. Ada reflected that a policy can lead the way for
53 education and understanding. **Action: Judy Friesen moved the APRP, when submitted for a**
54 **congregational vote, be accepted with a simple majority approval; Cynthia Linscheid seconded; the**
55 **motion carried unanimously.**
56
- 57 Elizabeth expressed thanks to the committee for their intense work on this.
- 58
- 59 8. **Introducing “collaboratives” Information item.** Nathan Koontz, associate pastor, presented
60 information about a possible way within our church structure to provide for BCMC members and non-
61 members to work together toward our church’s Common Purpose statement.
62
- 63 9. **Congregational Project Tithe – Discussion item.** John Kliewer explained how a new practice of tithing
64 a portion of major project expenditures could make us more aware and responsive to the “poorest of
65 the poor” in the world. Elizabeth used a modified listening circle to structure the discussion.
66
- 67 10. **Columbarium Niche pricing.** Glen Ediger presented additional information on double person niches
68 now available that would expand the current columbarium spaces from 144 to 432 spaces. The
69 additional expansion of the structure’s depth by 10” can be accommodated with no impact on the
70 landscaping.
71 **Action: John Kliewer moved to authorize the task group to proceed with Columbarium Proposal**
72 **#2; Dale Schrag seconded; motion passed unanimously.**
73
- 74 11. **Executive Session.** Entered 8:47 pm. Closed at 8:49 pm
75
- 76 12. **There is no scheduled meeting in July. Members agreed to receive and act on any business items via**
77 **email.**
78
- 79 13. **Adjourned 8:51 pm. Next Meeting: August 5, 2021**

80
81 Respectfully submitted,
82 Pat Friesen, Clerk