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3 **Bethel College Mennonite Church Board Minutes**

4 ***Pending approval at April 2022 Board Meeting***

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

8 **Board Members Present:** Elizabeth Schmidt (moderator), Ada Schmidt-Tieszen (moderator
9 elect), Judy Friesen, John Kliewer, Lois Preheim, Adam Robb, Bill Swartley, Margaret Toews

10 **Board Members not present:** Glen Ediger, Cynthia Linscheid, Dale Schrag

11 **Staff Present:** Mike Claassen (Finance Manager), Nathan Koontz (pastor), Renee Reimer
12 (pastor), Todd Schlosser (Interim Pastor)

13 **Staff not present:**

14 **Others attending:** Heather Zerger

15 1. **Welcome and Centering Prayer** – Moderator Elizabeth Schmidt opened the meeting with a
16 time of silence followed by a prayer.

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18 2. **Consensus Approval - Consent Agenda** – Minutes of the February 3 board meeting, the
19 February 15 board special meeting, on-line minutes of commissions and committees, and
20 pastors' reports were approved by consensus.

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22 3. **Action - Financial Report - February 2022** - Michael Claassen, Finance Manager, reported
23 no changes from the written report and that February budget expenditures tracked as
24 expected. Income is less than expectations. Bill Swartley moved to approve the Financial
25 Report and John Kliewer seconded. The motion carried.

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27 4. **Action - Facilities Committee proposal for exterior painting of church** - The Facilities
28 committee asked the Church Board to pass a motion to approve a recommendation to
29 paint the exterior of the church during 2022. The motion is as follows: That the Church
30 Board approves the recommendation by the Facilities Committee to accept the bid
31 submitted by Red Truck House Painting, 201 W. 27th Street, North Newton, KS, to paint the
32 exterior of Bethel College Mennonite Church during the year of 2022 for the bid of
33 \$25,600.00. Ada Schmidt-Tieszen made the motion. Judy Friesen seconded. The motion
34 carried.

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37 **5. Inclusion Task Group** - John Kliewer presented a summary of four resolutions which will be
38 voted on at an MC-USA Consultation held in Kansas City on May 27-30. The resolutions on
39 the agenda of the Consultation are 1) a Resolution to rescind MC-USA membership
40 guidelines which specifically alienate the LGBTQ+ community; 2) a resolution on justice; 3) a
41 resolution on accessibility, and 4) the Resolution on Repentance and Transformation. This
42 last resolution includes a formal apology to the LGBTQ+ community for years of exclusion
43 and discrimination and specifically provides for membership of individuals who identify as
44 LGBTQ+ on various committees and boards. BCMC joined the Supportive Communities
45 Network last year and representatives from BCMC will be attend the Consultation.
46 Elizabeth read a statement prepared by John on behalf of the Inclusion Task Group that
47 summarizes BCMC's history leading to its current position on resolutions 1) and 4). The
48 statement received consensus approval from the board to share with the congregation in
49 the next Kaleidoscope newsletter.

50
51 **6. Board handbook review to check for updates needed** - Judy Friesen agreed to work on
52 updating the Board handbook with the name change from Pony Express to bcmcXpress.
53 Judy will also work on updating the Board handbook to include the Peace Garden policy.
54 Adam Robb agreed to work on finding the relevant section of the handbook to add the
55 Abuse Prevention and Response Policy.

56
57 **7. Pastoral Transition** - The board received a revised proposal from Credence & Company of
58 Kitchener, Ontario. Bill Swartley moved to accept the revised proposal of \$16,300 and
59 Margaret Toews seconded. The motion carried. Elizabeth Schmidt will contact Western
60 District to inquire about applying for financial assistance that is available for congregations.
61 Elizabeth will also communicate our approval to Credence so the consulting process can
62 begin. Discussion continued around the need to engage the congregation in the consulting
63 process. Points of discussion included:

- 64 - BCMC must be an active participant in developing our vision and in carrying it
65 out.
- 66 - The consulting process is a framework only.
- 67 - Congregants must do the work now and after the consultation is over to carry
68 the visions forward.

69 A Kindom report will be made on March 13 share the board action of engaging a consulting
70 firm. Adam will update the news item in the regular BCMC email which is sent out on
71 Wednesdays. Judy Friesen, Ada Schmidt-Tieszen and Margaret Toews are planning to
72 attend the Center for Anabaptist Leadership & Learning event at Hesston College on March
73 25-26, Where have All the Pastors Gone?

74 Elizabeth introduced the idea of a Prayer Team which has been beneficial for other
75 churches during the pastoral transition process. Specific prayer requests could be made

76 throughout the transition process. Discussion followed. An early task of the consulting
77 process is to establish a Reference Group. Could the Prayer Team be a link between that
78 group and the congregation?
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80 **8. SCRC Report on pastor evaluations** - Heather Zerger joined the meeting to take any
81 questions about the SCRC report on the pastoral evaluations of Nathan Koontz and Renee
82 Reimer. There were no questions from the board. Those who completed the survey
83 strongly affirmed the ministry of both Nathan Koontz and Renee Reimer. Elizabeth
84 Schmidt thanked Heather and the SCRC for their work and Pastor Nathan and Pastor Renee
85 for their pastoral ministry.

86 **9. Executive Session:** Entered at 8:56 pm. Closed at 9:28 pm.
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88 **10. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.**
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90 Submitted by Margaret Toews, Clerk

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