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3 **Bethel College Mennonite Church Board Minutes**

4 ***Pending approval at August 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:** Ada Schmidt-Tieszen (moderator), Brad Kohlman (moderator-elect),  
9 Mary Ann Boschmann, Judy Friesen, Tim Hodge, Karen Penner, Lois Preheim, Adam Robb, Bill  
10 Swartley, Margaret Toews

11 **Board Members not present:** John Kliewer, Jon Zerger

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

14 **Staff not present:**

15 **Others attending:**

- 16 1. **Welcome and Centering Prayer** – Moderator Ada Schmidt-Tieszen invited the group into  
17 moments of silence followed by a centering prayer.  
18
- 19 2. **Consent Agenda** – Online minutes of commissions and committees, pastors' reports, and  
20 June 2 board meeting minutes were presented. **Tim Hodge moved to approve the Consent**  
21 **Agenda and Judy Friesen seconded the motion; approved by consensus.**  
22
- 23 3. **Financial Report for June, 2022** - Michael Claassen, Finance Manager reported no additions  
24 or changes to the report as presented. He explained the new line item in the Equities  
25 portion of the balance sheet which accounts for market variation in value of the fund  
26 holding Plant Fund money. Questions were raised about high expenses and low income for  
27 this point in the church budget year. Mike highlighted charts in his report which show the  
28 General Fund balance is lower than usual, but income usually improves toward the end of  
29 the budget year. **Adam Robb moved to approve the Financial Report. Tim seconded;**  
30 **motion carried.**  
31
- 32 4. **Report on Timeline for Budget Process** – Mike presented the 2022 bcmcXpress budget  
33 timeline. There were no questions. No action needed.  
34
- 35 5. **Board Appointments** – Bonnie Epp has agreed to serve with Mary Ann Boschmann as  
36 assistant treasurer. The board will thank outgoing assistant treasurers Nancy Hilty and Lois  
37 Goertzen for their long and valuable service in this role. **Judy moved to appoint Bonnie**  
38 **Epp as assistant treasurer; Lois Preheim seconded. The motion carried.**

39 6. **Input for BCMC Worship Coordinator** – Nathan Koontz outlined his idea for worship  
40 planning as described in his letter included in the board packet. He is asking for existing  
41 groups within the church who choose to participate to name a contact person. A calendar  
42 of participation would be created for August until Advent, 2022. Each participating group  
43 can participate directly or act as consultants for the worship service.

44 The board strongly supports this plan. Tim Hodge and Brad Kohlman are interested in being  
45 contact people for the Sundays when the Church Board is participating. The first of these  
46 Sundays will be sometime in August.

47 7. **Letter to Mennonite Church USA** – The letter is one of encouragement and appreciation to  
48 the leadership of MCUSA for the passage of the Resolution for Repentance and  
49 Transformation. **Judy Friesen moved to approve the letter; Brad Kohlman seconded. The**  
50 **motion carried.** The letter will be included in the weekly email to BCMC members and  
51 copies will be available for individuals to sign.

52

53 8. **Reopening Task Group: Time to Dissolve?** Discussion focused on the reality that the church  
54 has moved to Covid response management. The board acknowledges that Covid will be  
55 with us for the foreseeable future. The Reopening Task Group has done an excellent job of  
56 making decisions and the board expresses significant gratitude to the group for its work.  
57 Management of Covid response is now entrusted to the commissions and committees  
58 making decisions as they plan events. The board understands it may need to reform this  
59 group if Covid resurges in our community. **Adam moved to close the Reopening Task**  
60 **Group; Judy seconded. The motion carried.**

61 Because the Reopening Task Group is now closed the board discussed two upcoming events  
62 involving Bethel College. August 14 is New Student Orientation Sunday when, before  
63 Covid, new students at Bethel attended BCMC Sunday worship. This year, the board would  
64 ask attendees to mask and would host a donuts and coffee time either outside or in several  
65 locations to minimize crowding. October 9 is Fall Fest Sunday when, before Covid, a  
66 worship service for college and community was held at BCMC.

67 **Adam moved to host both New Student Orientation Sunday (August 14) and Fall Fest**  
68 **Worship (October 9) in the BCMC building. Tim Hodge seconded with the stipulation that**  
69 **we use a “long runway” of communication to BCMC members so that those who choose**  
70 **can watch the services remotely. The motion carried.**

71 9. **Initiatives for the Year: First Discussions** –

72 -Decolonization Task Group – After reading the book Healing Haunted Histories the  
73 group is thinking about next steps. The board encourages the group to advertise its  
74 meeting times to all congregants and gives its blessing and encouragement. The

75 group can choose to be a task group under the Witness Commission or under the  
76 Board. Ada will contact Raylene Penner and the Witness Commission.  
77 -Worship Commission Task Group – Discussion was deferred to the next meeting  
78 due to time constraints.

79

## 80 **10. Reports and Announcements**

81 -Credence Consulting and Reference Group will be meeting tomorrow. Response  
82 has been good. Many surveys are being collected, both online and paper;  
83 Interviews are being held.

84 -Hospitality Commission is planning to resume Wednesday night suppers and  
85 Sunday morning greeters in the fall.

86 -For new people on board, commissions, committees – orientation meeting next  
87 Sunday during SS hour.

88 -A draft has gone out to Faith Formation for two positions:

89 i. Youth coordinator – ¼ time. Responsible for

90 1. High school youth

91 2. High school Wednesday activities

92 ii. Faith Formation coordinator – ¼ time. Responsible for

93 1. Sunday school

94 2. Wednesday nights

95 These positions will need to be approved by the board – SCRC will work on specifics  
96 once hiring is complete. Current ideas are for positions to be salaried. The Board is  
97 delegating oversight to the Faith Formation commission. These positions are for the  
98 2022-2023 school year and following summer. These are not permanent positions.

99

100 **11. Executive Session.** Entered at 9:00 pm. Closed at 9:05 pm.

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102 **12. Meeting Adjourned – 9:05. Next meeting will be held August 4.**

103

104 Submitted by Margaret Toews, Clerk

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