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3 **Bethel College Mennonite Church Board Minutes**

4 *Pending approval at October 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), Mary Ann Boschmann, Judy  
9 Friesen, Tim Hodge, John Kliewer, Karen Penner, Lois Preheim, Adam Robb, Bill Swartley,  
10 Margaret Toews, Jon Zerger

11 **Board Members not present:** Brad Kohlman (Moderator-elect)

12 **Staff Present:** Nathan Koontz (Pastor), Todd Schlosser (Interim Pastor)

13 **Staff not present:** Mike Claassen (Finance Manager)

14 **Others attending:**

15 1. **Welcome and Centering Prayer** – Ada Schmidt Tieszen (Moderator) led the board in a few  
16 minutes of focus on mindfulness followed by prayer.

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18 2. **Consent Agenda** – Online minutes of commissions and committees, pastors' reports, and  
19 August 4 board meeting minutes were presented. **John Kliewer moved to approve the**  
20 **Consent Agenda and Judy Friesen seconded the motion; approved by consensus.**

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22 3. **Financial Report for July, 2022** – The Treasurer's Report was emailed prior to the meeting.  
23 Mike Claassen could not be present. Income was higher than expenses again in August.  
24 Finances are moving in the right direction. **Adam Robb moved to approve the Financial**  
25 **Report. Lois Preheim seconded; motion carried.**

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27 4. **Pastoral Search Committee: Starting the Process**

28 Ada proposed that work start on establishing a search committee so it is in place when  
29 work with Credence is complete. Western District Conference advises an odd number of  
30 people, possibly 5 -7, representing different ages, viewpoints, skill sets and willingness to  
31 consider prayerfully the work of the committee. It was noted that people participating in  
32 Wednesday night activities may not also be present on Sunday morning. Their participation  
33 in congregational life should also be represented on the search committee in some manner.  
34 Board members caucused with people sitting next to them. An envelope was passed  
35 around to collect lists of names. Mary Ann Boschmann will work with Ada to develop a list  
36 of people to call which will be sent out to board members. The search committee will be  
37 looking for two pastor positions. A timeline might be as follows: wrap up report and work  
38 with Credence in December, possibly write a job description in February-March.

39 **5. Worship Commission Task Group: Proposal (action item)**

40 Ada distributed the following proposal: "That a time-limited task group of 4-6 members be  
41 formed to explore the future of the Worship Commission at BCMC and bring a  
42 recommendation to the Church Board for discussion and a vote. The Task Group should  
43 begin work as soon as feasible and complete recommendations by February 1 for  
44 processing at the February Church Board meeting. If the Commission is reconstituted,  
45 nominations for Commission members will be sought for approval at the April  
46 Congregational Meeting." Discussion followed around the importance of a philosophy of  
47 worship and coordination with pastors. Bill Swartley agreed to work with Ada in deciding  
48 on appropriate membership for the group. **Adam made the motion to establish the task  
49 group as described above; Bill seconded. The motion carried.**

50 **6. Initiatives for the Year:**

51 - Decolonization task group update

52 Quite a few people have signed up. Raylene Penner is coordinating with plans to meet  
53 once or twice as a larger group then divide into small groups. Loss of Turtle Island is an  
54 event coming up.

55 - New Initiative: BCMC Tithing with Church Projects - John Kliewer distributed a proposal  
56 which reads, in part: "...the congregation will tithe 10% over and above all funding  
57 required for future special, non-maintenance project spending. The Church Board will  
58 determine which projects merit the tithe and the cause(s) that will be the recipient(s).  
59 The tithed amount will be raised and donated prior to project commencement. The  
60 intention is that tithe proceeds will be distributed to causes benefitting those in  
61 greatest need/less privileged and outside of the Bethel College Mennonite Church's  
62 usual benevolence projects (tithing will be in addition to and not replace BCMC's usual  
63 benevolences)." John shared two personal stories that helped to motivate this  
64 proposal. Lengthy discussion followed. Some questions raised include 1) does this  
65 obligate the congregation and board long after the stories such as John shared are  
66 forgotten; 2) should the proposal be a recommendation instead of a policy; 3) should  
67 the Witness Commission be part of the discussion. **Bill moved to bring the proposal to  
68 the Witness Commission for discussion and feedback. Tim Hodge seconded. The  
69 motion carried.**

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71 **7. Congregational Meeting September 11: Agenda and Format**

72 The September Congregational Meeting often focuses on the "program of the church".  
73 There is time for discussion since budget and similar business isn't usually discussed at this  
74 meeting. Adam proposed to moderate a discussion around forming small groups within our  
75 congregation, possibly including table discussions. APRC may have a short presentation.  
76 Other groups may contact Ada with additional agenda items. It was suggested that an open  
77 time for questions be held.

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**8. Reports and Announcements**

- Faith Formation positions update

Jill Robb has accepted the Faith Formation Coordinator position and George Leary has accepted the Youth Coordinator position. The board is grateful for their passion and willingness to step forward in these ways.

- Inclusion Task Group letter to MCC

ITG wants to take more time with this issue before they draft a letter to be sent to MCC

- Upcoming dates: Leadership Retreat (Oct. 1), Credence Report to Congregation (Oct.16)

- Credence Consulting and Reference Group update

A report to the church board will be presented at the Oct 1 retreat. Credence asked for our preference regarding a report to the congregation on October 16. The board believes Credence should be included in Sunday morning worship via zoom. Bill Swartley will coordinate tech needs for this meeting, including a larger screen.

**9. Executive Session** – Entered at 9:42p. Closed at approximately 9:55p.

**10. Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:55. Next meeting will be held October 6.**

Submitted by Margaret Toews, Clerk

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