

2
3 **Bethel College Mennonite Church Board Minutes**

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

5
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:** Brad Kohlman (moderator-elect), Mary Ann Boschmann, Judy
9 Friesen, Tim Hodge, John Kliewer, Karen Penner, Lois Preheim, Bill Swartley, Margaret Toews

10 **Board Members not present:** Ada Schmidt Tieszen (moderator), Adam Robb, Jon Zerger

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

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

13 **Others attending:**

14 1. **Welcome and Centering Prayer** – Brad Kohlman (moderator-elect) led the group in prayer.

15
16 2. **Consent Agenda** – Online minutes of commissions and committees, pastors' reports, and
17 June 2 board meeting minutes were presented. **Judy Friesen moved to approve the**
18 **Consent Agenda and Tim Hodge seconded the motion; approved by consensus.**

19
20 3. **Financial Report for June, 2022** – The Treasurer's Report was mailed out prior to the
21 meeting. Mike Claassen could not be present. It was noted that income was higher than
22 expenses in July. There were no questions. **Lois Preheim moved to approve the Financial**
23 **Report. Tim seconded; motion carried.**

24
25 4. **Board Worship Ideas** – Nathan reports committees and commissions are filling the
26 calendar to assist with worship between now and Advent. As of now, the first two Sundays
27 in November may be a time for the board to participate. The Credence results may be
28 available. Tim and Brad, who previously agreed to facilitate board participation in worship,
29 may call on other board members to assist as readers or leaders of children's conversation.

30
31 5. **Initiatives for the Year**

- 32 – Decolonization task group update – Initially, the task group will be under the board.
33 The group is just forming and will be defining themselves and identifying goals.
34 There has been little response to the announcement in the bulletin asking for
35 interested members to join the group. Brad suggested making an announcement
36 during the worship service as part of a kin-dom report. Nathan will communicate
37 with Raylene Penner to make an announcement during worship asking for
38 interested people join the group.

- 39 – Worship Commission task group – Lengthy discussion centered around points
40 including the following:
- 41 – The Handbook states the purpose of the commission as follows: *The Worship*
42 *Commission assists pastoral and musical staff in utilizing available resources*
43 *to ensure that worship aligns with the congregation’s vision, is spirit-filled*
44 *and wholistic, and strengthens Christian discipleship.*
 - 45 – The Gifts Discernment committee could not find members to serve on the
46 commission and members as of 2021-2022 did not wish to continue – so no
47 commission is currently in place to be reconvened.
 - 48 – Aligning “worship...with the congregation’s vision” is work some on the
49 commission felt they should be doing. Instead, calling members to serve as
50 worship leaders, readers, and children’s story leaders was the work the
51 commission was in fact doing. Both tasks are vital.
 - 52 – The board should gather feedback from pastors and former committee
53 members to see what works best. What does the PA committee need? What
54 do guest musicians need?
 - 55 – Nathan suggested the commission could function as a steward of feedback
56 from the congregation to the pastors. How do we collect helpful feedback
57 for pastors – what is working? What is meaningful?
 - 58 – Thanks were expressed to Nathan and Todd for all the heavy lifting they are
59 doing to create worship services.
 - 60 – The commission could be two-tiered. One tier – bigger and more global
61 visioning of worship for our congregation. Another tier – callers to fill roles
62 needed each Sunday morning. There are members of our congregation gifted
63 in both types of work.
 - 64 – Brad will send a follow-up email tasking the board to start this work. It is
65 essential to get this commission working again before the Gifts Discernment
66 Committee begins its work in spring of 2023 for the following year.

67

68 **6. Reports and Announcements**

- 69 – Credence Consulting and Reference Group update – Credence is concluding the
70 BCMC internal interviews and will interview external church leaders by end of
71 August, if possible. The final draft of the report will potentially be available by early
72 September. In mid-September, the draft will be reviewed with the BCMC Reference
73 Group and updated accordingly. Credence, working with the Reference Group, will
74 prepare for a congregational meeting of 2 – 2 ½ hours in late September or early
75 October.
- 76 – The consulting process will only be valuable if we follow-up with action.
77 This is the beginning of work to move BCMC forward.

- 78 – Nathan recommends we assemble a search committee to be ready when
79 recommendations come from Credence. **Action Item** – put formation of
80 search committee on the September board meeting agenda.
- 81 – The board needs to be pro-active to lead the congregation through the
82 changes ahead.
- 83 – Faith Formation positions update
- 84 – No applications yet.
- 85 – Hospitality Commission and BC new students on August 14
- 86 – Todd reports there might be 125 – 150 students joining worship on August
87 14. Masks are required. If congregants feel unsafe they can view worship
88 online that morning. All are encouraged to come to the outside fellowship
89 time after worship which will include donuts, coffee and water. Even
90 those who view the service from home are invited to come to church for
91 the fellowship time. This is BCMC’s chance to welcome new BC students.
- 92 – The Hospitality Commission has this event well-planned, but if anyone can
93 help on that morning please volunteer. An announcement will be made in
94 church saying additional help is appreciated for the fellowship time the
95 morning of August 14.
- 96 – Parking – The neighborhood parking problem was discussed. The board needs to
97 work again with Bethel to find a solution.

98

99 **7. Inclusion Task Group Letter to MCC** – The Inclusion Task Group is drafting a letter to
100 Mennonite Central Committee objecting to policies which exclude the LGBTQ+ community
101 from volunteering for service with MCC. Nathan will try to send a copy of the letter by
102 email to the board ahead of time so the board is ready to discuss the issue at the
103 September meeting.

104 Nathan asked if anyone on the board objects to having the Rainbow Flags flying along the
105 front walk to the church as Bethel students arrive for the coming school year. No one
106 objected. Nathan will put them up tomorrow.

107 **8. Setting Church Calendar Dates**

- 108 – The next Congregational Meeting will be held at 10:30 am on September 11, 2022. A
109 question was raised about congregational participation in the meeting. How can we
110 create time for participation and feedback? One thought is to put an announcement
111 in the bulletin asking for feedback which could be discussed at the congregational
112 meeting. The timeline from Credence will be presented. Looking ahead, the board
113 needs a plan as to how the first report from credence will be processed by the
114 congregation.

115 – Credence Presentation – The date will be determined later, probably in early
116 November

117 – Leadership Retreat – The date will be determined later.

118

119 **9. Executive Session.** Entered at 8:58pm. Closed at 9:10 pm.

120

121 **10. Meeting Adjourned at 9:10. Next meeting will be held September 1.**

122

123 Submitted by Margaret Toews, Clerk

124

125 Draft - Church Board Minutes 2022 08 04.docx