

First Mennonite Church Annual Business Meeting

January 14, 2009

- ❖ John Penner opened the meeting.
- ❖ Lynn Gerber led the gathering in devotions.
- ❖ Mary Baumfalk read minutes of the 2007 Annual Business Meeting. Minutes were approved as offered.
- ❖ Pastor's Report
 - Pastor Weldon opened his report by touching on two items of pastoral care. He spoke briefly about Willard Penner recovering from surgery at St. Elizabeth's Hospital and about the recent fall of Dora Penner, who was being moved to Bryan LGH West.
 - Pastor Weldon briefly reviewed his report as printed in the booklet. He gave a brief overview of the Church Board Retreat held last February. He stated that through that retreat the group garnered a new found hope for the future and were reminded that we are all a part of the body of Christ.
 - Pastor Weldon touched on the Goossen Building discussion to come later in the meeting. He announced that he would again be meeting with interested pastors on February 12, 2009 at the Goossen Building.
 - Pastor extended his thanks to God, Florence for supporting him as he continues to solo Pastor and to Mary for her help.
- ❖ Deacon's Report
 - The Deacon's report was given by Mike Goossen. Mike reviewed the Deacon's role within the church. He also gave his thanks as he completes his service as 6 years as a Deacon.
- ❖ Deacon Election
 - LeRoy Janzen was the only nominee for Deacon. Tellers were Don Jantzen, Kathy Casey, and Barb Thimm. LeRoy was elected to the office of Deacon.
- ❖ Slate of Nominees
 - The slate was read by Bev Claassen. Time was given for additional nominees from the floor. None were received. Jim Ensz moved to accept the motion. Vern Jantzen seconded the motion. A hand vote was taken. The slate of nominees was passed.

❖ Building Committee Report

- Norman Reimer gave the Building Committee report.
- The Building Committee met with Dennis Schuster of Beatrice Mechanical regarding ways to save energy within the building.
- Dennis suggested that by turning the main furnaces down in the building to 60 while the church is not being used, there would be an estimated savings of 1100 gallons per year or 25% of our average annual consumption. Dennis estimated that it would take approximately 2-3 hours of recovery time to return the church to a more moderate temperature.
- To achieve this, two programmable thermostats would need to be installed to program the shifts in temperature. This would cost 200-250 each installed.
- However, the problem of heating the offices would become a larger issue.
- One option is to add radiant heaters to the offices. However, the current wiring for the offices would be substandard for this addition.
- The estimated cost of thermostats, heaters and wiring is \$2000.00.
- Dennis was asked about cooling in the summer time. He stated that he did not really think that turning off the air conditioning during the week would provide much in the way of electric savings.
- The optimal solution would be to install two mini-split heat pump units to heat and cool the offices then leave the remainder of the church controlled by programmable thermostats. The total cost of this option would be approximately, \$5000 for the mini-unit, plus \$200 for wiring and programmable thermostats.
- Members of the congregation asked several questions regarding the specifics of costs, and heating/cooling issues. These were answered in turn.
- The recommendation of the Building Committee was to proceed with the installation of two programmable thermostats, radiant heaters in the offices and a wiring update for the offices.
- This motion was seconded by Dorothy Zimmerman.
- After a few further questions and some discussion, a hand vote was taken. Motion carried.

❖ Other Committee Reports

- Auditing Committee
 - ◆ Presented as printed on the Additions page to the booklet.

❖ Church Board Recommendations

- John referenced the round table discussion that was held in October regarding the Goossen Building future and the pathways discussed at that meeting.
- John presented the recommendation from the Church Board as printed in the booklet.
- Gail Cross added to that discussion that he felt there was a general sense on the Board that Weldon feels truly called to pursue this mission and that the Board was in favor of supporting Weldon in that pursuit.

- Time was given to the gathering to discuss the matter before them around their individual tables. After such time, the mic as opened to answer questions from the floor such as what other local churches are interested in participating in this venture, and the like.
 - The motion was received from the Church Board, seconded by John Hiebert. Time was given for further discussion on the issue. A hand vote was taken. Motion carried.
- ❖ Central Treasurer's Report
- Lori Thimm referred to the reports as printed in the booklet. She highlighted the committee totals for the projected 08-09 budget
 - Lori was happy to report that the Church ended the year in the black and thanked the congregation for their continued gracious giving.
 - Lori moved to accept the reports and projected budget. Rita Friesen seconded the motion.
 - Time was given for discussion. The question of where the money for the Building Committee recommendation would come from in the budget was discussed. The Building Committee is usually over-budgeted from year to year. The amount needed would simply be taken from this section of the budget.
 - A hand vote was taken. Motion carried.
- ❖ Other concerns
- Norman Reimer mentioned the need for guidelines for decorating the tombstones in the cemetery. This was referred to the Cemetery Committee to take care of.
- ❖ John Penner closed the meeting with prayer.