

**First Mennonite Church**  
**Church Board Meeting Minutes**  
August 19, 2008

Church Board Chair John Penner called the meeting to order. Jerry Reimer led the group in devotions.

Board members present: John Penner, Jane Esau, Gail Cross, Lori Thimm, Weldon Schloneger, Mike Goossen, Dorothy Zimmerman, and Jerry Reimer. Guests present: Dorothy Nickel-Friesen, Doug Krehbiel

**Celebrating Mission**

The minutes of the July 2008 meeting were approved as offered.

**Missions, Peace & Service Council**

- This will be heard at the September meeting.

**Education Council**

- Vicki was unable to attend the meeting; however, John Penner related to the Board that the Education Council is seeking guidance regarding VBS for next summer. The Council is the commitment to bringing the group of Hopi's to visit next summer. The Board discussed this and decided that if this is really a mission of the Church, then the issue should be discussed by the congregation at a round table meeting.

**Worship Council**

- This will be heard at the September meeting.

**Pastor's Report**

- This will be heard at the September meeting.

**Church Board**

The majority of the Church Board meeting was discussion of the potential utilization of the Goossen building. Before the meeting, members of the Board, along with guests, Dorothy Nickel Friesen and Doug Krehbiel of Western District Conference toured the facility to obtain a better understanding of what is available now and in the future.

John Penner opened the discussion with a review of what has led the Board to this meeting. Beginning with the Board retreat last February to Louis Goossen offer to let the Church use the building for its purposes. John then invited Dorothy and Doug to share their impressions, views, and experiences with other congregations with the group during the course of the discussion.

First, does the use of this building fulfill a mission of the Church, if so, will the congregation support it.

Dorothy NF stated that there are good intentions behind the long-term goals of using the building, but there are two very distinct separate paths that the church could go down in using the building. The first is a "Youth Minister"; the second is a Rec. Program with an ecumenical missional outlook.

Doug and Dorothy NF helped the Board to understand the difference between the two. A Youth Minister would be congregationally based. That person would have a direct responsibility to the service of FMC. A "Program Director" would be dedicated to the operation and promotion of the facility. This person should be under the direction of a separate advisory board. Dorothy was clear to point out that this Board could be made up entirely by FMC members, but that it should be separate from the Church Board.

Dorothy Zimmerman offered that an evolution of the program could be possible. It could start out as more of a safe zone for kids, especially middle school aged, to socialize and participate in activities with their peers. Over time, other elements such as an ecumenical bible study, opportunities for local service, could be added to the program.

Dorothy NF advised that the first question should be what is the potential – to the Church – to the community. The Church needs to create clear goals for whichever path the congregation decides to take.

Dorothy NF also advised that it would be prudent to take the following opening approach. Over the next year, open the facility up on Friday and Saturday nights to the youth of the community, after six months, the Board should then reassess how the program is working, whom it's attracting, and what activities are responded to the best. Then these programs should continue for another six months. After which the Board should assess again. Dorothy NF advised that a timetable needs to be established and the steps should be worked on to make that timetable work. It was suggested that a small group should start working clarifying a potential vision for the facility for a 1-year, 3 year, and 5-year timetable. Names were suggested for that small group. Weldon will work on outlining the different paths for the small group to work on. It was strongly suggested that Marv Goossen be asked to be included in that planning group.

Logistics and legal issues were also discussed. This is a huge project and the details need to be written up before any major commitment is made by either party involved. At this time, Louis is paying for all the costs related to the building. It is his intention that within 3-5 years the building would be given to the church. In addition, staffing is a critical issue for this project to work. WDC would help in the search process. However, the Church would have to be in a place to make a commitment to anyone entering this position.

At this time, nothing more can really move forward until after the congregation has been given information concerning a set pathway to follow and determine if the congregation supports the project.

### **Celebrating God's Provision – Central Treasurer's Report**

Lori presented the account balances and register through July 31, 2008. The general fund balance as of 7/31/08 is \$ 3023.39.

### **Celebrating New Mission Possibilities**

Nothing at this time.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer and a blessing.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Baumfalk