

Bahia Vista Mennonite Church
Annual Members Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2014

1. Chair Nancy I. Yoder called the meeting to order at 6PM with 94 persons in attendance. Miriam Nauman shared a meditation and led in prayer.
2. In the absence of Secretary to the Overseers Nancy B. Yoder, Overseer Wendy Donovan reviewed highlights from the December 8, 2013 BVMC Annual Members Meeting and the minutes of the July 20, 2014 Congregational Meeting. (M/S/C The minutes accepted as presented. Wes Oswald / Gene Yoder)
3. Pastor Roger Shenk shared the Annual Pastoral Report for 2014. (See Attachment A.)
4. Executive Minister Mike Christner presented the Financial Report for January through December 7, 2014 and will provide a full report at the end of the year. The total budget for the current year is \$746,672 with receipts to date of \$545,927. He estimated that expenses will exceed receipts at the end of December by about 8%.
5. In preparation for the 2014 Annual Members Meeting, the Chair reported that the Overseers reviewed and approved the proposed 2015 Ministry Goals that were presented to the congregation on November 30, 2014 for review. In addition, the Overseers requested nominations for Overseers replacements from the congregation from October 26, 2014 - November 9, 2014 and approved 5 names presented in notification letter of November 30, 2014, after contacting nominees. Absentee ballots were available on paper and online. The Chair reviewed the purpose and function of the Overseers and the Board Chair as stated in the BVMC Bylaws.
6. Chair Nancy I. Yoder introduced the current Overseers and thanked them for their many hours of work on behalf of the church. She expressed appreciation to outgoing Overseers Jerome Yoder and Nancy B. Yoder for their service.

Wes Oswald was presented for affirmation of Chair of Overseers, given none of the other nominees consented for their names to be placed on the ballot.

Chair Nancy I. Yoder presented the ballot of five candidates, Doug Graber, Renee Krabbe, Sharon Nussbaum, Danny Remchuk and Ben Sprunger for the election of two Overseers, one will serve a three year term and a two year term, filling the position left vacant by Wes Oswald, who as chair will begin a new 3 year term.

Dave Kniss, Jerome Yoder, Bruce & Carol Lehman and Brian Trexler tabulated the absentee and paper ballots submitted by BVMC members and associate members for this purpose.

7. Executive Minister Mike Christner presented the proposed 2015 Ministry Goals showing a total budget of \$709,680, which is a decrease of 5% from this past year. A paper ballot was used for approval.

8. Ben Sprunger gave an update for the Master Plan Committee. They are going through the process of county approval for the Master Plan. No additional approvals were needed.
9. Chair Nancy I. Yoder reported the results for the Ministry Goals for 2015. After tabulation of the ballots, 73 approved and 9 voted no.

Chair Nancy I. Yoder reported that Wes Oswald was affirmed as Chair of the Overseers by 100%.

Chair Nancy I. Yoder reported the results of elected Overseers. Doug Graber (2017) and Ben Sprunger (2016) were elected to serve as Overseers.

10. Pastor Roger Shenk recognized and thanked Nancy I. Yoder for her hard work and service to BVMC as Chair and led in closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:19PM.

Wendy Donovan
Recorder

PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Bahia Vista Mennonite Church

Much could be said at year's end to describe and evaluate the year behind us. I asked God what he would have me say and he impressed upon me that, "There is a time for scattering and a time for gathering; these are days for gathering." Similarly, after this morning's worship services, Aram DiGennaro asked if he could talk with me. He said that it was impressed upon him during worship that this Advent season has special meaning for Bahia Vista: It has been a year of darkness, but it is now a time for hope.

Make no mistake, 2014 has felt like a year of scattering. We said goodbye to two staff ministers and were in a legal dispute with a ministry we had started. It caused such tension in our congregation that some people left. To them we give grace for what was undoubtedly a painful decision. Others thought about leaving, but stayed and followed a path of grieving and restoration. To them we give thanks. Still others have not yet made peace with the events of this year, and with them we continue to seek reconciliation.

I believe that it *does* get better from here. Have we not been praying for that? And is it not the will of God that his church would be a place of healing, reconciliation, renewal and faithfulness? In fact, even in this year of scattering, God has already been gathering!

There is much to be thankful for:

- This year we baptized 18 people and received 22 new members. Praise God for honoring his Word among us, and for growing his church.
- This year we reorganized and reassigned our staff. We added Mike Christner as Executive Minister, reassigned Shirley to Pastoral Care Minister, and Dennis Bontrager to Seniors Minister. We added Nori Yoder as Interim Youth Director, and added Special Events Director to Kayla Miller's responsibilities. Cathy Christner has been a positive addition as one of our part-time administrative assistants. This staff has great camaraderie and respect for each other. It's a joy to work with them.
- We were able to get some necessary work done around the campus as well: We created office space by relocating the library to room 12 off the Fellowship Hall, and adding two offices where it had previously been. We reorganized our storage, and created additional space in room 11. We reinvigorated the parking lot median on the south side of the church with new landscaping. We built a permanent information center. We added curtains to the sanctuary doors. We added new signage.
- We adjusted our Sunday worship times so that both services have optimum start times.
- We adjusted our Wednesday night programming so that the youth, children, and 242 groups all start and stop at the same times.
- Our youth group is rebuilding with a regular participation of middle schoolers who are mostly from Bahia Vista families. I believe this is a good foundation for rebuilding.
- Our 242 groups are a consistent part of our fellowship as a church with groups meeting throughout the week.

- We were able to significantly reduce expenses this year. True resourcefulness tends to surface when resources are less than planned.
- And amazingly, our Board of Overseers have come through two years of very stressful decisions, and have emerged with their love and faith intact. This is truly a gift from God.

God is good, loving, and powerful. He always will be. As we enter 2015, I would like to encourage us as a church to dream again -- to have hopes and goals, and to pray bold prayers, to love extravagantly, to befriend genuinely.

We are planning to hold regular conversational meetings after the first of the year, so the pastoral team and the congregation can speak and listen together as a church family. There is much vital work to be done here in Sarasota, and here at Bahia Vista. Like I said, I believe it is a year for gathering. And I believe we will see the glory of God at work among us.

Finally, on a personal note, I'm appreciative to everyone who took time to fill out a pastoral review form this summer. As expected, I found it both encouraging and challenging. I would also like to give a special thank you to the Task Force for their sensitivity to the congregation, and ultimately for the affirmation and encouragement they gave me. I remain energized for this call, and am eager to keep learning and adjusting however necessary, that the message of Jesus Christ would be effectively administered here at Bahia Vista.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Shenk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Roger Shenk, Pastor
December 7, 2014