

Bahia Vista Mennonite Church
Overseers Minutes
February 8, 2016
Room 15, back of sanctuary.

“Befriending all with the love of Christ through community, worship and service.”

Members Present:	Wes Oswald (Chair) Doug Graber Renee Krabbe Ben Sprunger Karissa Miller	David Kniss Danny Remchuk Karl Hees Mitch Helmuth
Pastoral Team Present:	Roger Shenk Gene Yoder Dennis Bontrager	Mike Christener Shirley Good
Pastoral Team Absent:	Kayla Miller	David Denison
Congregants Present:	none	

1. **Call to Order:** Wes Oswald called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM
2. **Devotional:** Dennis Bontrager led in devotions using Roman 12:9-13. Dennis led in prayer.
3. **Minutes:** Minutes of January 11, 2016 Overseers meeting were reviewed. Hearing no changes, Wes Oswald declared them approved as recorded. (Attached)
4. **Open Floor for Member and Guest Comments:** None
5. **New/Unfinished Business:** None
6. **Reports:**
 - a. Monthly Pastor’s Report: Pastor Roger Shenk reviewed his report. He noted a good response to the sermon series “Come and Leave.” On Sunday, February 8, several people responded to the invitation at the conclusion of the message. He reported the response to Myron Augsburg’s messages was again good. He reported on our youth participation during the Southeast Mennonite Annual Conference (Jan 29-30, 2016). He noted the range of level of faith commitments of the youth from various conference churches.
 - b. Finance: Mike Christner reported budget short falls for January. However contributions were higher than last year and expenses lower suggesting a good trend.

7. Standing Committee Reports:

- a. Finance: No report
- b. Membership Renewal Task Force: Roger observed that the overall response to the January 31, 2016 “Family Meeting” was generally favorable. Next steps for future meetings are to flesh out a bit more the ideas of worship community and covenant engagement with those attending who consider Bahia Vista their worshipping community.
- c. Bylaws Task Force: Documents, lists and reviews are underway . . . more to come.
- d. MCUSA Task Force: Roger reported that he agreed to serve on the Southeast Mennonite Church Task Force focusing on relationship with MCUSA. The Task Force met during the Southeast Mennonite Church Conference Annual Meeting.
- e. Sabbatical Committee: The Committee has met but nothing to report.
- f. Building Fund Committee: No report.

8. Recommendations:

- a. Kitchen Sewer Line Replacement: Mike Christner presented the urgent need to repair the main sewer line running from the Kitchen to the line which connects to the city sewer line. He made the following recommendation:

A capital improvement fund raising campaign be implemented for the purpose of funding the cost to replace existing sewer lines in the Kitchen and to replace the flooring in the Kitchen Hallway (estimated cost of \$12,000).

During the discussion which followed the following was noted:

- We currently have \$15,610 in the Repair/Renovation Reserve fund. Each month \$1,000 is added to this fund so that by the end of 2016 an additional \$10,000 should be added to the fund.
- The Capital Improvement Items on the 2016 Budget total \$45,700. These capital items include:
 - Remolding old office space \$5,000
 - Replace flooring in Kitchen Hallway 3,300
- The Bahia Vista Community Builders Board had met just prior to the Overseers Meeting and agreed to consider funding the renovation of the Old Office Space. This is consistent with the mission of Community Builders which is to raise funds

for the BVMC Master Plan. The renovation of the Office Space is part of the Master Plan.

- The flooring in the Kitchen Hallway will be part of the Sewer Project.

With the above notes in mind the recommendation above was revised as follows:

A capital improvement fund raising campaign be launched for the purpose of funding the Sewer Line Project and other repair items on the 2016 Capital Improvement list (MSA Doug Graber and Dave Kniss).

Note: the current amount needed to fund the Sewer Project and other items on the Capital Improvement list is \$48,800. The amount to be raised in the fund raising campaign will be determined at a later date. The amount available in the Repair/Renovation Fund will be considered when determining the amount to be raised.

- b. Rename MCUSA Task Force (see attached proposal): That we rename the MCUSA Task Force to Conference Affiliation Task Force (MSA Danny Remchuk and Karl Hees).

9. Other Business: none

10. Executive Session: none

11. Closing Prayer: By Roger Shenk

12. Adjournment: At 6:14

Recording Secretary

Ben Sprunger

PASTOR'S REPORT TO OVERSEERS

February 6, 2015

Befriending all with the love of Christ...

Word & Worship. The “Come Leave” series has been well-received, framing of the necessity of conversion as an invitation to leave behind our sin, doubts, pride, and life, and to come follow Jesus.

The evenings of January 24 to 27, Myron Augsburger spoke on four Old Testament characters: Abraham, Moses, David, and Elijah. The meetings were an encouragement to many who have heard him in the past, as well as new people who experienced his teaching for the first time.

Vision. At the January 31 Church Family Business Meeting I introduced the concept of an annual covenant style membership and was pleased with the positive reception and discussion. Our membership structure should be an extension of our mission *to befriend all with the love of Christ through community, worship, and service*—including those who are new to the faith, or to theological and doctrinal convictions. In a tradition as homogenized as ours, it would be a bold statement to accept into our family any whom the Lord accepts into his family. But this raises hard questions: Should church membership be an affirmation of progress (doctrinal understanding and conversion), or a recognition of a relationship (faith in Jesus, and commitment to the Bahia Vista worshipping community)? We will plan to develop that conversation further at the next meeting, March 13.

Community Relations. The *Revive Florida* gatherings had several hundred in attendance with many people from other areas where the Dallas-based ministry, *Time to Revive*, had held their program. On Friday of that first week, January 22, they invited the local pastors to speak into whether they should extend the meetings here in Sarasota. Eleven pastors said yes. I gave a “qualified yes” explaining that I'm very supportive of congregations working together for revival, but that I have not felt led to cancel our congregation's ongoing ministries. I participated in the week long activities, and concluded that we have discerned and planned our events well in advance, with what we believe is Spirit-led purpose and redemptive value. This is true even of events that are not as serious, but that contribute to the overall experience of being a church family. My heart is to be a team player in the larger church. I believe the friendship and unity of the area pastors is one of the “signs and wonders” that the Spirit has been working in Sarasota. My hope and prayer is that the *Revive Florida* gatherings will illuminate and magnify this, even for congregations that, for whatever reason, are not participating in the program.

On February 13th a Southeast Mennonite Conference Task Force is scheduled to begin looking into the issues surrounding affiliation with Mennonite Church USA. Three of the six task force members are a part of our Bahia Vista family: Alma Ovalle, J. David Yoder (chair), and myself.

Ministeries & Operations

Pastoral Care. Our visitation team continues to serve congregants who are homebound or in nursing care facilities. A special thanks to Abe and Martha Beachy for their leadership along with the team of Miriam Nauman, Carolyn Stoll (Faith Community Nurse), Dave and Esther Kniss, and Naomi Swartz. GriefShare continues to be an important ministry to church members as well as community persons. We offer support to 8 to 12 persons weekly.

Children. We have consistently had more children in the Nursery; it is exciting to watch them learn and grow together. On January 18, Kayla, Wendy Donovan and the rest of the Sarasota WinShape Camp team went to Atlanta for a Host Rally Conference. It was exciting to be with other children's ministers and leaders from around the country to share stories, advice, and plans for next year. We are excited to be starting a middle school camp this year as well! This annual conference influences Bahia Vista's children's programming throughout the year, as well as preparing us to help host the summer camp.

Youth. Ascend Student Ministry is continuing to flourish. As a result of our added emphasis on assimilation, a larger number of our Wednesday night youth are now attending on Sunday mornings, many of whom do not have church backgrounds or families in church. The Lord is drawing youth to him, and in February we will have 7-10 students participating in a New Believers class culminating in March baptisms. As an extension of broader efforts to reach families through students, parents will be required to attend the last day of the baptism class, and encouraged to attend their youth's baptism.

We hosted around 60 students for the youth lock-in for the annual South East Mennonite Conference assembly, and we're proud that our students' participation in the weekend represented the largest individual congregational representation at the assembly.

The last month has been incredibly difficult for a number of students in our group. Details which should not be publicly disclosed represent much personal loss and familial pain. Please be in prayer for our hurting youth and pray that God would bring us more volunteers to minister to them. The most fruitful month of Ascend student ministry has also been the most painful. Our prayer is that we may grow to receive both the joy and the pain with equal gratitude.

Seniors. The month of January was busy with so many winter friends back. Focusing on learning the names and making friendships with so many is a fun challenge. Many volunteers offered their help in completing the Meadows project for the Bahia Vista Community Builders. That project was completed and closed on January 29.

Our senior ministry team meets the first Thursday of each month to plan future events. On January 28, 103 seniors travelled to Orlando to enjoy the "Holy Land Experience." It was an excellent adventure in spite of the fact that it rained all day. Many seniors expressed their appreciation for this event and indicated that it was a meaningful experience. The month of February, we will have two "Lunch and Learn" events that center on making final arrangements for our remembrance. The Spirit of God is moving within the seniors. People are coming together and making new friendships.

Special Events. Thank you to everyone who helped build sandwiches and feed people for the *Revive Florida* luncheon on Saturday, January 23rd! We had 22 helpers on Friday and made 400 sandwiches and packed lunches in 1 hour! And we

Facilities. We anticipate being able to repair the kitchen sewer line the 1st week in March 2016. The renovation of the former office space is underway, and being underwritten by the Bahia Vista Community Builders.

In pursuit of our mission,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ross', written in a cursive style.