

**Bahia Vista Mennonite Church**  
**Overseers Minutes**  
**April 11, 2016**  
Room 15, back of the sanctuary.

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

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

1. **Call to Order:** Wes Oswald called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm
2. **Devotional:** Pastor Roger led the devotional reading on the *“THE ROLE OF A PASTOR”* He then led in opening prayer.
3. **Minutes:** Chair Wes Oswald declared the March 14, 2016 minutes approved as distributed (Attached)
4. **Open Floor for Members comments:** none
5. **New / Unfinished Business:**
  - a. SCS/BS Update: Pastor Roger gave an update on the discussion with Bay Shore(BS) and Sarasota Christian School (SCS) (Attached)
6. **Reports:**
  - a. Pastor Roger reviewed his report. (Attached)
  - b. Finance: Mike Christner reviewed the March statement and noted that we are \$101.00 short of meeting the budget goal of \$58,625.00 consisting of Offerings and Contributions YTD.

**7. Committee Reports:**

- a. Finance Committee: Doug Graber reviewed the minutes of the last meeting and made the motion to approve the following recommendations: Seconded by Danny Remchuk
  - The finance committee recommends funding the additional \$3,800 for Roger's sabbatical as requested by the Sabbatical Committee.
  - The Committee further recommends the \$5,000 and the \$3,800 be funded from the "resources" as listed in the detail line items within Roger's expense budget.
- b. Membership Policy Task Force: - no report
- c. Bylaws Task Force: Karl Hees reported the Task Force met on March 28. Proposed amendments were distributed to the Overseers for review. The goal is to have the Bylaws ready to present to the membership before the December 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.
- d. Conference Affiliation Task Force: Pastor Roger gave an update on Southeast Conference (SEC) effort to determine whether SEC will continue to be a part of MCUSA. The SEC Task Force is soliciting feedback from Conference pastors.
- e. Sabbatical Committee : Mike informed the Overseers that the Committee made a recommendation to the Finance Committee to provide additional funding for Pastor Roger's Sabbatical Leave in the amount of \$3,800.
- f. Building Fund Committee: - no report

**8. Recommendations: none**

**9. Other Business: none**

**10. Executive Session: none**

**11. Closing Prayer: Pastor Roger led in a closing prayer.**

**12. Adjournment: Wes Oswald declared the meeting closed at 6:03 pm**

**Upcoming Events:**

- Next meeting is Monday, May 9, 2016 at 5:00 pm.
- Pastor Roger's sabbatical, May 16 – August 14, 2016

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Secretary, Renee Krabbe

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Recording Secretary, Hertha Kornhaus.

**If you would like a copy of the attachments listed above, please email Wes Oswald at [wmosie@gmail.com](mailto:wmosie@gmail.com)**

# PASTOR'S REPORT TO OVERSEERS

April 9, 2016—Bahia Vista Mennonite Church

## **Befriending all with the love of Christ...**

**Sabbatical.** As noted last month, Bahia Vista grants its pastor a three month sabbatical “to provide opportunity for personal growth, educational study, and enrichment toward the enhancement of future ministry to the congregation.” To that end I will become unavailable for church responsibilities on May 16th, and will be back in the office August 15th. I entrust the executive and pastoral responsibilities without reservation to our fully capable staff, believing that this summer will be a pivotal time for the growth of this church. While I am not looking forward to being disconnected from my church family, I am looking forward to returning to see the fruitfulness that this “pruning” produces.

**Word & Worship.** Prior to my sabbatical leave, beginning April 24, I plan to take four weeks to teach on the concept of a sabbath rest. I'll use the opportunity to explain my sabbatical plans, but my focus will be on how each of us can honor God by observing a sabbath rest in our day-to-day lives. Then, May 22 will begin a thirteen week preaching schedule to include two series from our preaching team, Dennis Bontrager and David Denison, interspersed with guest speakers: Pastor Shel Boese (Bay Shore), Pastor Vernon Zook (Abundant Life), Pastor Shawn Otto (Bethel), missionary Garry Denlinger (Israel), and a presentation by the Loving Hands ministry. Then, on August 21, I will be back with a message developed from my sabbatical study.

**Vision.** As the winter season gives way to the spring, our numbers again reveal that we are a large small church that becomes a small large church for a few months out of the year. Each year, as we move toward summer, we start to ask what changes need to be made for the fall. This year we are recognizing the incredible need in our community for churches that teach the gospel of Jesus in a way that is accessible to everyone, but with faith that worships God in both truth and spirit, and that believes grace is for restoration as well as salvation. This means we must hold ourselves to that hope personally, but it also means that we go the extra mile in befriending those who feel stuck, hopeless, or lost. For each of us, this requires a continual renewal of our identification as Christ's *sent disciples*, not just his *saved believers*. I trust that my sabbatical studies will add understanding to our vision and mission as a church, and am already eager to lead the way in that this fall. At the same time, I encourage the church to not wait for more information, but rather to “run on ahead,” doing whatever you can to befriend whomever you can with the love of Jesus. This is our mission, and it is not complicated. Love extravagantly. Without love, we are without faith.

## **Ministries & Operations**

**Pastoral Care.** We continue to offer pastoral care to people through various stages of life, health, and spiritual formation. Congratulations to Jeremy and Alison Kizziar on the birth of their son, Ryder Jeremy (March 24), and to Dean and Becky Ruark on the birth of their daughter, Norah Jane (March 28)!

**Children.** We have seen 28% growth in our childrens ministry during the past six months. This year we held our annual Easter Egg Hunt in the front yard for the first time. It was exciting to see people walking by on the street and stopping in to join our fun! We had 147 kids and over 30 volunteers. The next day we had 48 kids for our Easter service. Now we have begun fundraising for our summer camp, WinShape. This is one of our most effective local missions, reaching 320 kids last year. This year we want to reach

400, and to that end, the three hosting churches have a collective goal of raising \$40,000 in scholarships. "Taking a child in his arms, Jesus said, 'Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me.' " (Mark 9:36-37) Thank you to everyone who donates their time and resources to making sure children are a priority at Bahia Vista. The Lord will reward you!

**Youth.** Ascend Student Ministry is thriving! Last Wednesday we took 41 students to Sky Zone Trampoline Park, where we had exactly zero trampoline deaths, which keeps us well within our year-to-date goal. We recently announced plans to attend the annual "12 Conference" for youth in June, which will have musical guests and speakers from around the world. At the end of April we will have an evening of prayer and worship, which will be the debut of the Ascend worship team.

**Seniors.** The Seniors Ministry Team continues to meet and plan events designed to facilitate relationships among our seniors through fun events, as well as service projects. Participation has been impressive. A couple of weeks ago eight persons spent three hours cleaning up someone's yard. We cut trees and bushes, and mowed her lawn, filling 43 large construction bags of debris. Forty persons are planning to attend a luncheon being hosted by the Siesta Key Chapel next Thursday, April 14, to answer questions about "Who Are the Mennonites." The Dutch Scramble at Myakka next Saturday, April 16, is already at capacity with 45 persons signed up. A steak cook out is being planned for May 13.

**Special Events.** We are looking forward to our once-a-month summer parties that will begin in June.

**Facilities.** The kitchen sewer lines are in process of being replaced. Renovation of the old office space is nearing completion. This "Green Room" will be used as a preservice gathering and practice space as needed. The primary meeting space for our children's ministry is currently in the "dark room," so named for its lack of windows, which is admittedly not ideal for children's ministry. So this summer we plan to repurpose the current "music room" as a dedicated children's meeting space, effectively making the north courtyard and surrounding classrooms (north and west) a dedicated children's area. This is long overdue and necessary in our commitment to place a high value on children. This calls for relocation of the Practical Living class which meets there Sunday mornings after the first service. Further, the Faith Issues class, which meets at the same time, has been experiencing some accessibility issues with their meeting space in module 17. Both classes are interested in using the new "Green Room" so we are facilitating a conversation between the classes to explore viable solutions.

Befriending all,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ross" or similar, written in a cursive style.

### Bahia Vista Mennonite Church

As of 3/31/2016	Offerings & Contr.	Budget Goal	Over Under Budget	% Over Under Budget
Month				
January	60,189	69,665	-9,476	-13.6%
February	79,642	74,503	5,139	6.9%
March	58,524	58,625	-101	-0.2%
April				
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
<b>Total Offerings &amp; Contributions</b>	<b>198,355</b>	<b>202,793</b>	<b>-4,438</b>	<b>-2.2%</b>
<b>Other Budget Receipts YTD</b>	<b>45,804</b>	<b>49,750</b>	<b>-3,946</b>	<b>-7.9%</b>
<b>Total Budget Receipts YTD</b>	<b>244,159</b>	<b>252,543</b>	<b>-8,384</b>	<b>-3.3%</b>
<b>Total Disbursements YTD</b>	<b>175,344</b>	<b>174,766</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
<b>Net Receipts/Disbursements</b>	<b>68,815</b>	<b>77,777</b>	<b>-8,962</b>	<b>-11.5%</b>

As listed above, total receipts for year to date were \$244,159, compared to a budget of \$252,543, a shortage of \$8,384.

Total disbursements for year to date were \$175,344, compared to a budget of \$174,766, an overage of \$578.

It is essential that receipts during months of January through April provide amounts adequate to cover expenditures during summer months when receipts will not cover expenditures. Our 2016 budget anticipated a Year to date surplus of \$77,777, but the actual was only \$68,815, a shortfall of \$8,962.

A full detail report, if not attached, is available upon request.