

Bahia Vista Mennonite Church
Overseers Minutes
May 9, 2016
Room 15, back of the sanctuary.

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

Members Present:	Wes Oswald (Chair) Danny Remchuk Karl Hees Doug Graber	Dave Kniss Karissa Miller Mitch Helmuth
Members Absent:	Ben Sprunger	Renee Krabbe
Pastoral Team Present:	Roger Shenk Shirley Good	Mike Christener Gene Yoder
Pastoral Team Absent:	Dave Dennison Dennis Bontrager	Kayla Virkus
Congregants Present:	Carolyn Stoll	

1. **Call to Order:** Wes Oswald called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm
2. **Devotional:** Gene Yoder shared personal reflections of his life at BVMC, serving faithfully for over eight years as Bahia Vista’s Administrator. He led in opening prayer.
3. **Minutes:** Chair Wes Oswald declared the April 11, 2016 minutes approved as distributed. (Attached)
4. **Open Floor for Members comments:** Carolyn Stoll reported that a “Disability Advocacy Group” has been formed. She encouraged further consideration be given in dealing with disabilities.
5. **New / Unfinished Business:** none
6. **Reports:**
 - a. Pastor Roger reviewed his report. He called special attention to Gene Yoder. (Attached)
 - b. Finance: Mike Christner reviewed the April statement and noted that we are \$9,530 short of meeting the budget total of \$62,095.

7. Committee Reports:

- a. Finance Committee: Doug Graber reported there was no meeting.
- b. Membership Policy Task Force: - no report
- c. Bylaws Task Force: Karl Hees reported that all members have received a copy of the amendments and is waiting for responses.
- d. Conference Affiliation Task Force: Pastor Roger provided an update on the status of the Southeast Mennonite Conference remaining with MCUSA. He noted the Southeast Conference has heard from conference pastors and are in the process of formulating a recommendation to be considered by the churches and ultimately by the Southeast Conference at its next meeting.
- e. Sabbatical Committee: no report

8. Building Fund: no report

9. Other Business: Summer schedule for overseers meetings – following a brief discussion, it was agreed to meet monthly during the summer months.

10. Executive Session: none

11. Closing Prayer: Several members participated in the closing prayer and Wes Oswald closed with prayer.

12. Adjournment: Wes Oswald declared the meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm

Upcoming Events:

- Pastor Roger's sabbatical, May 16 – August 14, 2016
- Overseers, Monday June 11, 2016
- Overseers, Monday July 11, 2016
- Overseers, Monday August 22, 2016
- Congregational Meeting, Sunday August 28, 2016
- Southeast Mennonite Conference Annual Assembly, October 7-8, 2016

Secretary, Renee Krabbe

Recording Secretary, Hertha Kornhaus.

If you would like a copy of the attachments listed above, please email Wes Oswald at wmozie@gmail.com

PASTOR'S REPORT TO OVERSEERS

May 6, 2016—Bahia Vista Mennonite Church

Befriending all with the love of Christ...

Vision. Our mission is to befriend all with the love of Christ through community, worship, and service. While the love of Christ can be expressed in many ways—and we must continue to serve and befriend people where they live—the fulness of that love is not complete until the soul is converted and the mind restored through spiritual rebirth. This is the pinnacle of our mission! And we will experience some of its fruit on May 15th as we baptize a dozen youth. Other people have also recently expressed interest in baptism. And last week an old friend stopped by the church unexpectedly to pray and put his faith in Christ. Hallelujah. “I am not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.” (Romans 1:16)

Sabbatical. Everything is ready for my sabbatical, May 16-August 15. The Bahia Vista staff is prepared for anything that may come along. Mike is in charge of executive decisions concerning operations and general ministries. Shirley is in charge of pastoral care. Gene and Rodney will plan the worship services. Dennis and David will share preaching duties. Childrens, youth, and seniors ministries will continue as they normally do, along with several church wide events that are being planned for the summer. My behind the scenes responsibilities have been delegated and we are now finalizing travel plans. Thank you for this opportunity to refocus.

Word & Worship. In this current series, “The Rest,” I am encouraging the value of honoring a day each week to stop ordinary work, devote ourselves to God in worship, and to do good. The struggle is to bring this admonishment without reawakening the legalism that some of us have been freed from. But the principle of honoring God with a day of sacred rest is not something to be resisted in fear, but embraced in hope. Then, beginning May 22nd our preaching team (Dennis Bontrager and David Denison) will teach two series, 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 I plan to bring a message from my sabbatical study on August 21st.

Ministries & Operations

Pastoral Care. Shirley continues to head up our pastoral care. We have had a month of celebrations: We celebrated Saloma Albrecht as she prepared to move to Indiana. We celebrated the baby dedication of Breila Graber. We continue to celebrate new babies: Ryder Kizziar, Norah Rurak, and now Caleb Graber born in Paris. And we are celebrating Kayla Miller's marriage to David Virkus. At the same time we also are walking alongside people through various tormenting struggles. It is an honor to “rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn.” (Romans 12:15)

242 Groups. Our small group ministry continues to serve those who choose to be part of them. Small groups connect people to the church through relationship. We would encourage everyone to join a group, and encourage others to do the same.

Prayer Team. Sam and Nic King have volunteered to lead our Prayer Team and served in this capacity for the first time Sunday May 1st. Several people responded. This ministry is one of the Regenerate teams we

have been working at implementing. The Prayer Team will be available at the end of each service to pray with anyone about anything. Feel free to talk with them about serving in this capacity. Prayer is so vital!

Children. Wendy Donovan has been helping Kayla on WinShape plans. We have over 230 children already registered. Several of the children from our church still need scholarships. We are taking donations by cash, check, online, or text 941-877-5090. Reference "Winshape."

Youth. Our youth held a prayer and worship night on Friday, April 29. It was sparsely attended because of prom and other conflicts, but those who did attend worshiped with reverence and sincerity. We were affirmed to plan on doing it again.

Young Adults. I (Roger) have been meeting weekly with several young adult men (mid-20s to mid-30s) just to talk about faith and life. On Friday, May 13th Wendy and I will host a larger young adult gathering for the same purpose, and are planning to meet regularly when we return from sabbatical.

Seniors. The bulk of our seniors have returned to the north, but our seniors ministry still thrives here! The seniors ministry team continues to meet regularly to plan events, the next one being a Steak Cookout on Friday, May 13th.

Special Events. We are excited for the upcoming summer parties! The third annual BVC Bowl-a-rama is on June 8th, so sign up in the info center if you would like to join!

Facilities. The kitchen waste lines have been replaced and the kitchen is once again in full operation. Remodel projects often take longer than anticipated and cost more than estimated. This has been the case for this project as well. Please consider donating to our capital funds drive to help pay for the ongoing upkeep of this facility. The old office space which we are now calling the Green Room has been remodeled, complete with a new paint job and new flooring. It is already being used by 242 groups and the worship team. It will serve us well. The repurposing of this room was part of the master plan for our church facility. A big thanks to the BV Community Builders for contributing so generously to this project. In turn that means a big thanks to the church for all the volunteer hours you gave toward the remodeling of houses purchased and resold by them. ☐

Gene Yoder. Early in 2008 Bahia Vista asked Dave Kniss to serve as interim pastor. He agreed upon the condition that Gene Yoder come out of retirement and serve as interim administrator. Gene served well in this capacity, chairing the Transition Team as it prepared the congregation for a new pastor, and then he helped this pastor prepare for a new congregation. In October 2009 I asked if he would stay on in a permanent capacity and he agreed, serving faithfully for these past 6½ years, and a total of over eight years as Bahia Vista's Administrator. We knew that he would retire again some day, and this month marks the end of his employment here. He retires with the respect and admiration of his church, his staff, and his pastor. In characteristic fashion, he will continue to volunteer his time leading our Traditions worship committee, and helping in the office as needed during my summer sabbatical. Thank you Gene for your diligence, and the spirit in which you have loved the Lord by loving Bahia Vista. We love you.

Till August,

