

**Bahia Vista Mennonite Church  
Overseers Minutes – September 12, 2016  
Green Room**

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

**Members Present:** Wes Oswald (Chair) Dave Kniss  
Danny Remchuk Renee Krabbe  
Doug Graber Karissa Miller  
Mitch Helmuth

**Members Absent:** Ben Sprunger – Leave of Absence  
Karl Hees

**Pastoral Team Present:** Roger Shenk Dennis Bontrager  
Kayla Virkus

**Pastoral Team Absent:** Dave Dennison Mike Christener  
Shirley Good

**Congregants Present:** Phil Rolfe as observer.

1. **Call to Order:** Wes Oswald called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm
2. **Devotional:** Renee Krabbe read scripture from Hebrews 12:22-24. Emphasis was on Unity, that we are better listeners, trusting and sharing the love of Christ in difficult times. She led in opening prayer.
3. **Minutes:** Chair Wes Oswald declared the August 22nd, 2016 minutes approved as distributed (Attached)
4. **Open Floor for Members comments :** none
5. **New / Unfinished Business:** none
6. **Reports:**
  - a. Pastor Roger reviewed his report. (attached)
  - b. Finance: the August statement was reviewed. August offerings and Contributions were over budget by \$1,664. Year to date through August we have a shortfall of \$12,272 in net receipts.

**7. Committee Reports:**

- a. Finance Committee: Doug Graber reported that the budget process for the coming year will begin shortly.
- b. Membership Policy Task Force: none
- c. Bylaws Task Force: none.
- d. Conference Affiliation Task Force: Pastor Roger reported that following the recent Congregational Meeting there were no comments in opposition to the recommendation of the Southeast Mennonite Conference Task to the SE Conference Board.
- e. Sabbatical Committee: none
- f. Building Fund Committee: none

**8. Recommendations:**

- a. Appoint Corporate Member Representative to Sunnyside Village: Pastor Roger Shenk recommended the following: "That the Overseers appoint Mike Christener as the fifth corporate member representative to Sunnyside Village effective 10/1/2016, to replace Harold Kornhaus whose term expires 9/30/2016" MSA Danny Remchuk, Renee Krabbe.
- b. Approve Leave of Absence for Ben Sprunger: Wes Oswald explained that Ben Sprunger is open to remaining on the Board of Overseers in a leave of absence capacity. Danny Remchuk moved to grant Ben Sprunger a leave of absence through the end of March 2017 at which time his situation will be reevaluated. MSA Danny Remchuk, Dave Kniss.
- c. Appoint SMC Delegate: Pastor Roger Shenk recommended the following: "That the Overseers appoint Karla Mumaw as the delegate to Southeast Mennonite Conference (SMC) in substitution for Ben Sprunger". MSA Doug Graber, Renee Krabbe.

**9. Other Business:** none

**10. Executive Session:** none

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

**12. Adjournment:** Wes Oswald declared the meeting adjourned at 5:57 pm

**Upcoming Events:**

- Southeast Mennonite Conference Annual Assembly, Homestead, FL, October 7-8,
- Overseers Meeting , Monday October 10th, 2016 at 5pm

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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 [wmozie@gmail.com](mailto:wmozie@gmail.com)**

# PASTOR'S REPORT TO OVERSEERS

*September 10, 2016—Bahia Vista Mennonite Church*

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

**Vision.** What a joy to welcome people of all walks and traditions, including the previously unchurched. I have been especially encouraged to meet people who were introduced to Bahia Vista during my absence, and have continued to choose us as their church family. May they continue to find fullness of faith among us.

**Word & Worship.** I am thankful for the opportunity to explain my heart for unity in the larger Church, and how my mind came to understand it during my sabbatical studies. I am impressed with how eagerly Bahia Vista is engaging the discussion and examining themselves. I also keep hearing that the topic of unity is activating some people's desire to see Bahia Vista united under one worship service. It's the same desire we heard in 2012 that led to the blended service experiment that only lasted a few months—ultimately reaffirming the need for distinct worship styles to befriend more people. But I absolutely love that we want to be together. It's good when family spends time together.

**Community Relations.** I was rightly questioned at our congregational meeting a couple weeks ago about how my interest in Church unity affects my affirmation of the proposal being brought for consideration by the delegates of Southeast Mennonite Conference. The proposal is multi-faceted, affirming the desire we heard for intercongregational fellowship, and making suggestions about organization and representation of the conference. But the most pressing recommendation being brought to the delegates next month is that the the conference declares that, should the denominational membership guidelines ever be changed to recognize same-sex unions as morally acceptable, our conference will leave Mennonite Church USA. While it does seem to be at odds with my concern for broader Church unity, I have yet to explain publicly (as of this writing) where in some cases God does advocate for separation. Furthermore, as I explained at the meeting, organizational unity is generally founded and maintained upon common goals. There is no moral requirement to remain joined organizationally if those commonalities change. I believe the conference's decision to declare its intent to leave honors the theological concerns of Southeast Mennonite Conference, while recognizing the reality that MCUSA has not yet decided to affirm same-sex unions, even if there's reason to believe that it is moving in that direction.

## **Ministries & Operations**

**Children.** The children have started their third and final year of The Gospel Project for Kids, meaning that by this time next year, they will have worked through all major stories in the Bible from Genesis through Revelation. (See additional Children's Ministry related note under Staff, below.)

**Youth.** September will be the first month that Ascend Student Ministry has a home Bible study. Students will be gathering on Monday nights for a series on Experiencing God, with an emphasis on developing skills for studying and applying God's word. David and Jessie Denison, and Roger and Wendy Shenk will be attending Sarasota Christian School's high school retreat September 15-16, where David will be this year's speaker. Be in prayer for Ascend as they take steps towards assembling a committee of church leaders to lend support and counsel, and to help in establishing a more robust ministry structure.

**Young Adults.** Twenty young adults met at Pastor Roger and Wendy's house Sunday evening, September 4. It was designed as a night to bring questions. We spent the whole evening talking about how faith should affect our involvement in politics. It was a very engaging evening. The plan is to host this every 1st and 3rd Sunday evening.

**Seniors.** There is a good, positive spirit among the seniors. The ministry team is making specific plans for seniors that live in Sarasota and attend Bahia Vista. A Wednesday evening Bible study will begin on October 5, and will study, "Gospel Shaped Living". Another group, "Living Joyfully Aging Well," meets every other Thursday for lunch and input, with 25 to 30 people at each session. Each session a life story is told and then a speaker gives practical input on this topic. Discussion then follows. Dennis has been making contact with our seniors in the north, and visiting local seniors as they recover from health issues. The seniors ministry will be an ongoing service in our area, as Sarasota predicts its seniors population to grow 10% by 2020.

**Special Events.** We are excitedly preparing for our Community Fall Festival! Please spread the word and sign up in the info center to help!

**Facilities.** We are making adjustments to our rental protocol so that doors will not need to be left open as they have been. Lockboxes are being installed at various places with codes that can be changed periodically. We continue to recognize some of the less sensational problems with our aging building, such as failed faucets, etc., and are costing out the necessary repairs and replacements.

**Staff.** With Gene Yoder's retirement as Administrator, we have made the following staff reassignments: Gene's responsibilities have been assimilated by Mike Christner as Executive Minister. Wendy Shenk has been moved from front office Administrative Assistant to Facilities Director & Executive Assistant so she can assist Mike more directly in his responsibilities. This leaves us with one part-time Administrative Assistant position with a need for increased hours which current Admin Asst Cathy Christner would rather not add. Kayla Miller, Children's Minister & Special Events Director, has expressed her interest in taking this new front office position which works nicely with her special events responsibilities. In order to do that she will step aside from her position as Children's Minister, so we are forming a search committee for that purpose, which Kayla will participate in for continuity. She will fill her CM responsibilities until a replacement is found. She is currently being trained by Cathy to fill the front office position. All are still part time positions and do not increase the budgeted expense. We are excited about these changes, and believe God is leading us through them.

With love,

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