

**Bahia Vista Mennonite Church  
Overseers Minutes – October 10, 2016  
Green Room**

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

<b>Members Present:</b>	Wes Oswald (Chair) Danny Remchuk Karissa Miller	Dave Kniss Renee Krabbe
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Ben Sprunger – Leave of Absence Karl Hees Doug Graber	Mitch Helmuth
<b>Pastoral Team Present:</b>	Roger Shenk Shirley Good	Mike Christener
<b>Pastoral Team Absent:</b>	Dave Dennison Dennis Bontrager	Kayla Virkus
<b>Congregants Present:</b>	Phil Rolfe as observer.	

1. **Call to Order:** Wes Oswald called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm
2. **Devotional:** Mike Christener referred to Pastor Roger’s recent messages on “Unity”, challenging us to give up non-essential things daily and laying down our lives for the sake of the Gospel.
3. **Minutes:** Chair Wes Oswald declared the September 12th, 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. September offerings and Contributions were under budget by \$2,787. Year to date through September expenses exceed receipts by \$39,820. Year-to-date receipts are under budget by \$47, 170 and disbursements are under budget by \$32,610.
7. **Committee Reports:**
  - a. Finance Committee: no report

- b. Membership Policy Task Force: none
- c. Bylaws Task Force: The proposed Bylaw amendments will be available to the congregation in November 2016.
- d. Conference Affiliation Task Force: Pastor Roger reported that due to Hurricane Matthew the Southeast Mennonite Conference meeting scheduled for October 8, 2016 was cancelled. No replacement meeting is scheduled at this time.
- e. Sabbatical Committee: none
- f. Building Fund Committee: none

**8. Recommendation:**

- a. Appointment of Corporate Member Representatives to Sarasota Christian School. Pastor Roger Shenk recommended the following: "That the Overseers appoint Cindy Grant and Jerome Yoder to three year terms as corporate board members to Sarasota Christian School, retroactive to October 1, 2016." MSA Danny Remchuk, Renee Krabbe.

**9. Other Business:**

- a. Election of New Overseers: Wes Oswald, current Chair of the Overseers, indicated that he will not be available to serve as Chair of the Overseers next year.

**10. Adjournment of Open Meeting:** Wes Oswald declared the general meeting adjourned at 5:54 pm.

**11. Executive Session:** Discussion was limited to who the Overseers would nominate as the next Chair of the Overseers.

**12. Reopening of Open Meeting:** Wes Oswald declared the general meeting reopened at 6:00 pm.

**13. Recommendation:** That Danny Remchuk, who is currently serving as Vice Chair of the BV Board of Overseers, be nominated to serve as Chairman of the Board of Overseers effective January 1, 2017 MSA Karissa Miller, Dave Kniss.

**14. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

**15. Closing Prayer:** Pastor Roger Shenk led in prayer.

**16. Adjournment:** Wes Oswald declared the meeting adjourned at 5:56 pm

**Upcoming Events:**

- Overseers Meeting , Monday November 14th, 2016 at 5pm
- Annual Business Meeting, December 4, 6 pm

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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

*October 8, 2016—Bahia Vista Mennonite Church*

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

We are doing what we set out to do: befriend all with the love of Christ through community, worship, and service.

**Community.** While we are followers of Jesus Christ ahead of any other leader or tradition, we celebrate that so many traditions have found peace here: Amish, Anglican, Assemblies of God, Baptist, Brethren in Christ, Church of the Brethren, Disciples of Christ, Episcopalian, Evangelical Covenant, Evangelical Free, Lutheran, Mennonite, Mennonite Brethren, Methodist, Missionary Alliance, Non-Denominational, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, United Church of Christ, and more—as well as those who came to the faith from no other faith tradition at all! Our family is, in a sense, multi-denominational.

Further, we are multiethnic—not because we have tried to be, but because the Church of God is. We are American, Cambodian, Columbian, Dominican, Phillipino, French, German, Greek, Guatemalan, Haitian, Hungarian, Indian, Irish, Italian, Mexican, Norwegian, Puerto Rican, Swiss, Ugandan and more.

Of course, we also acknowledge that among us are people who would rightly be described as apostate, agnostic, or atheist. While they would not claim to be “in the faith,” they are part of our Bahia Vista family. They come for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is respect for those they love. We welcome them, and actively befriend them, praying that our friendship reveals the gospel we profess. (We recently had ten people attend a new “Next Steps” class about building a new life around faith!)

Christian community is not about finding the lowest common conviction where we all agree on what is right and wrong. It's gathering around the highest common conviction that we have all done wrong and look to God's grace in Christ Jesus—a grace that is extended to everyone. This vision compels us: to befriend Sarasota with the love and grace of Jesus Christ, expressed through our caring community.

**Worship.** Many thanks to Gene Yoder for coordinating the music for our Traditions service since 2014. As he now retires to Goshen, we are pleased to announce that Alta Miller will assume his responsibilities.

We are currently in our second series on Unity. I'm excited to get to the final series where I'll propose solutions, but am constrained by the need to develop our understanding of the mistakes believers have made over the years (and continue to make) that perpetuate the divisions.

**Service.** We are currently discerning our service opportunities following Hurricane Matthew this past week. With regard to Florida's east coast, we look to Mennonite Disaster Service. And with regard to Haiti, we look to Mennonite Central Committee, and Agape Flights, as well as others.

I am proud of our congregation's corporate involvement with two local organizations that continue to reflect our mission and God's blessing in it: Sunnyside Village and Sarasota Christian School. Likewise, many of us recently celebrated the ministry of Gator Wilderness Camp for Boys—a regional mission well worth our support. Finally, we have been in discussions with Global Disciples about how we might corporately support their very effective ministry of training indigenous pastors to plant the gospel in the most unreached areas of the world.

**Southeast Mennonite Conference.** The annual meeting for Southeast Mennonite Conference to be held October 7-8 in Homestead, was postponed due to Hurricane Matthew. As of the time of this writing it has not been rescheduled. We pray for those affected by the storm, and trust God for the timing of our conference's decisions.

## **Ministries & Operations**

**Pastoral Care.** Pastoral Care is made so much better utilizing volunteers to reach out through our 242 groups, Sunday School classes, GriefShare, visitation team, and lifestage ministries (children, youth, seniors). People are facing the difficulties of relocating, relationship struggles, physical and emotional suffering, and financial or employment concerns. We are also experiencing the joys of new babies and new faith decisions! These are all opportunities to "befriend all with the love of Christ!"

**Children.** A task force is being formed to search for a new Children's Minister. Kayla Virkus will continue to serve in this capacity until such is secured. This month, they have been enjoying doing object lessons on Wednesday nights, and have seen an increased number of students as compared to last year.

**Youth.** Ascend Student Ministry just completed its one month trial run of Monday night Bible Study, and had an average of 15 students in weekly attendance. Jessie and David are prayerfully considering how to meet the long term need. October will see the beginning of a student leadership team, which will give students the opportunity to step into leadership roles while being mentored by David and Jessie. On October 28th, the group is having a costume party at Astro Skating Rink in Bradenton.

**Young Adults.** The Gathering continues to meet at Roger and Wendy Shenk's house every first and third Sunday evening to study scripture, and discuss faith and life. We have wonderful young adults who love Jesus and are serious about their faith.

**Seniors.** We continue to see strong participation in seniors events, as planned by Dennis and his ministry team. Befriending seniors is vital to befriending Sarasota with the love of Christ!

**Special Events.** We are making the final preparations for our Fall Festival. We're excited about the response from the church already, but could still use more donations and volunteers. Don't forget to vote for who you want to see dunked in the dunk tank, and to invite a friend to this community event.

**Facilities.** We are in the process of replacing all locks throughout the entire main building, as they were in various states of disrepair. We're aware that many people have obtained keys throughout the past 36 years, for which we have no reliable record, so we are using this opportunity to start over. If you have an old key, it will no longer work. We understand that many members use their keys as a personal convenience for picking up mail, etc., and we are sensitive to that. But we believe it's most prudent to distribute keys for responsibilities that require it. For renters and others with temporary needs for access, we have installed lockboxes that can be recoded periodically. Please contact Mike Christner's executive assistant, Wendy Shenk, if you need access. She will be happy to help.

**Staff.** Kayla Virkus has replaced Cathy Christner in the front office and is enjoying her new role. Thank you Cathy for your service, and your ongoing ministry as you invest yourself in other areas at Bahia Vista.

