

**Bahia Vista Mennonite Church
Overseers Minutes – January 9, 2017
Green Room**

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

Members Present: Danny Remchuk (Chair) Dave Kniss
Karissa Miller Doug Graber
Nic King Miriam Nauman
Dave Polen Renee Krabbe

Members Absent: Ben Sprunger – Leave of Absence

Pastoral Team Present: Roger Shenk Mike Christner
Shirley Good Dennis Bontrager
Dave Denison

Pastoral Team Absent: Kayla Virkus

Congregants Present: Samantha King

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Danny Remchuk called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.
2. **Devotional:** Danny Remchuk, in his devotional, talked about walking and communicating with God as a team. We should a) hold our heads high, b) be in step with the Holy Spirit and c) be in relationship with God. He would appreciate prayer as we walk together reaching out to meet people. Danny Remchuk closed in prayer.
3. **Minutes:** Danny Remchuk declared December 12, 2016 minutes approved as distributed. (Attached)
4. **Open Floor for Members comments :** none.
5. **New / Unfinished Business:**
 - a. Welcome New Overseers : Nic King, Miriam Nauman and Dave Polen were introduced.
6. **Reports:**
 - a. Pastor Roger reviewed his monthly Report. (attached)
 - b. Finance: the Year End statement was reviewed. Total receipts for YTD were \$653,458, compared to a budget of \$689,786, a shortage of \$36,328. Total disbursements for YTD were \$653,458, compared to a budget of \$689,786, a gain of \$36,328.

7. Committee Reports:

- a. Finance Committee: none
- b. Membership Policy Task Force: none
- c. Conference Affiliation Task Force: none
- d. Building Fund Committee: none

8. Recommendations:

- a. Appointment of Officers: Danny Remchuk recommended that the following individuals be elected to serve as officers for 2017. MSA: Dave Kniss, Dave Polen.
 - Vice Chairman: Karissa Miller
 - Secretary: Renee Krabbe
 - Treasurer: Doug Graber
- b. Temporarily Withhold Contributions to SMC: Danny Remchuk recommended that the Overseers instruct the staff to temporarily withhold contributions to Southeast Mennonite Conference while confidence is restored. MSA: Karissa Miller, Dave Kniss.
- c. Begin Rebranding Discussion: Pastor Roger Shenk led a brief discussion and recommended that the Overseers affirm the need to consider rebranding the church for best positioning in fulfilling our mission of befriending all with the love of Christ. MSA: Renee Krabbe, Nic King.

9. Other Business: There being no other business, the general meeting adjourned to the Executive Session at 6:04 pm.

10. Executive Session: The meeting opened at 6:05 pm.

- a. A Staff Update was discussed.
- b. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.

11. Reopening of the General Meeting: Danny Remchuk declared the general meeting opened at 6:58 pm.

12. Closing Prayer: Danny Remchuk led in a closing prayer.

13. Adjournment: Danny Remchuk declared the Meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm

Upcoming Events:

- Overseers Meeting , **Tuesday**, February 7 at 5pm
- Church Family Meeting, Sunday, February 12, 2017 at 6pm
- Overseers Meeting, **Tuesday** March 14, 2017
- Southeast Mennonite Conference Annual Meeting postponed to 2017 (tba)

Secretary, Renee Krabbe

Recording Secretary, Hertha Kornhaus.

**If you would like a copy of the attachments listed above, please email Danny Remchuk at
dremchuk327@gmail.com**

PASTOR'S REPORT TO OVERSEERS

January 7, 2017—Bahia Vista Mennonite Church

Befriending all with the love of Christ...

We have had the pleasure of meeting new families over the Christmas season. There is always a stream of new people here. That is a gift many churches do not experience. These people are a joy to us and I hear that we have been a joy to them.

I often hear about how welcoming and friendly Bahia Vista is to new people. There are certainly exceptions, but we are known as a friendly church. While such a ministry can be exemplified by a church's leaders (and it should be), the real reputation is earned at the grass roots level. We will continue to be intentional about coordinating our efforts at befriending people well, but the reality is that we can't "program" love or joy or genuine interest in others. The Holy Spirit does that by waking up the love of Christ in us. So thank you to everyone who follows the nudge of the Spirit by taking that extra step toward someone they've never met in order to make sure they feel welcome here. And thank you to those who are learning to so value their unbelieving friends that they invite them to church. You are such a vital part of our mission of befriending Sarasota with the love of Christ.

What a joy to be part of a church where God is bringing people to faith, and where they are eager to consider us their spiritual family. We are planning to receive five new members throughout the next several weeks, and baptize another five or more soon after that. Amen.

May the Lord continue to lift our eyes up and out to notice and encourage people with a genuine welcome into the family of God as represented by this church family called Bahia Vista. And may everything about us continue to confess theologically, spiritually, and missionally that Jesus is Lord.

Ministries & Operations

Pastoral Care. We continue to care for people through various stages of physical, relational, emotional, and spiritual distress. This is a heavy burden to carry—a privilege we do not carry lightly. Much thanks to the people on the visitation team who do the weekly check-ins, and to the many others in our church who quietly practice the love of Jesus in caring for each other.

Service Teams. Thank you to those who have recently begun serving as greeters on Sunday mornings. This is a vital ministry to "befriending all." Also thanks to those who continue to serve and support the tech ministries (sound, multimedia, lighting, video) that provide an attractive and meaningful worship service. Our online broadcast frequently connects fifty or more persons who cannot otherwise be here. What a gift.

242 Groups. The first Next Steps class concluded in December. At least one will be baptized from it, and two will become members January 8. The next class is being offered for February 1. The other 242 groups continue to serve as a strong relationship connector. We are evaluating whether it would be helpful to rebrand the 242 Groups ministry so that it more clearly describes the church gathering together in these small settings.

Children. We are still running our weekly Sunday morning and Wednesday evening programming. We are in need of more volunteers to teach classes on both days. If you are interested, see Kayla Virkus. (See "Staffing" below for update on Children's Minister search.)

Youth. The youth group celebrated Christmas with a party at Pastor Roger's house. Ascend resumed weekly Wednesday night meetings after almost a month of breaks. Attendance was down to 26 students in our first week back, but that is typical following such a long hiatus. On January 14th, the youth will be attending Winter Jam, a large Christian music event in Tampa.

Young Adults. Pastor Roger has agreed to be the personal supervisor for local missionaries Jonathan and Robynn Bachman who will be working with college aged young adults in Sarasota, and already have a presence on New College and Ringling campuses. The Gathering continues to meet every first and third Sunday evening and typically discusses concepts from the morning message. The BV young couples group meets for lunch and fellowship the second and fourth Sundays immediately following the second service. There are also additional mentor-styled relationships meeting regularly. God has brought us some wonderful young adults ranging from those who are new to the faith, to those who demonstrate maturity of faithfulness and are already eagerly serving here at BV.

Seniors. Many Bahia Vista seniors are returning from the north with a sense of excitement and enthusiasm and ready to participate in the events planned again this year. January 25 we will be having a potluck in the fellowship hall with Myron and Esther Augsburg. This will be Myron's last meeting in his series this year. The "Living Joyfully Aging Well" senior event that happens twice a month is being well received and attended. There are personal stories and informative narrative presented during this time that helps benefit the aging process. Lunch is available before the program, helping us to learn to know each other better. There are events planned through May so far and we want to continue to plan throughout the summer.

Special Events. The holiday season was busy with Caroling, Christmas Pageant and Christmas Eve Service. All were well attended and seemed to be thoroughly enjoyed. We're looking forward to the winter concert season to begin on January 15th with the Chuck Wagon Gang.

Facilities. Our building continues to look good due to the consistent work of a few dedicated persons. Recently a group of volunteers painted doors and helped in various clean up projects. We recently removed old landscaping around the lighted entrance sign, and plan to also replace the landscaping in the center island as you enter the campus in order to give us a fresh look.

Staff. We continue our search for a Children's Minister. Kayla has agreed to continue in a reduced interim capacity. The search committee has stepped up to help find people who can relieve her of Wednesday responsibilities and some of the Sunday responsibilities. The office will soon be open three days a week to accommodate the increased activity we see in the winter months as people seek information about church events, etc.

With eager expectation and hope (Philippians 1:20),

