

Bahia Vista Mennonite Church
Overseers Minutes – February 7, 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

Members Absent: Ben Sprunger – Leave of Absence
 Renee Krabbe

Pastoral Team Present: Roger Shenk Mike Christner
 Shirley Good

Pastoral Team Absent: Kayla Virkus Dave Denison
 Dennis Bontrager

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Danny Remchuk called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.
2. **Devotional:** Pastor Roger Shenk led devotions. He shared briefly about the work Global Disciples are doing in Muslim countries. Pastor Roger Shenk also shared that he experienced the healing power in a personal way. He mentioned that we all need prayer for healing, transformation, and to find faith believing that miracles do happen.
3. **Minutes:** Danny Remchuk declared January 9, 2017 minutes approved as distributed. (Attached)
4. **Open Floor for Members comments :** none.
5. **New/Unfinished Business:**
 - a. Paper Distribution: Following some discussion, it was agreed that future printed hard copies of the Overseers Agenda and Minutes will be placed in the circular literature rack at the Welcome Center as well as the rack beside the mail boxes.
- 6 **Reports:**
 - a. Pastor Roger Shenk reviewed his monthly Report. (attached)
 - b. Finance: The January 2017 statement was reviewed, showing a net gain of \$9,868.00.

7. Committee Reports:

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

8. Recommendations: none

9. Other Business: none

10. Executive Session: none

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

12. Adjournment: Danny Remchuk declared the Meeting adjourned at 6:12 pm

Upcoming Events:

- 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

February 3, 2017—Bahia Vista Mennonite Church

Befriending all with the love of Christ...

When God poured out his Spirit on the first believers, he confirmed it with more than just an inner feeling of peace or inspiration. He caused those men and women to proclaim his praises in languages they hadn't yet learned, so that everyone within earshot would know what was being said: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved!" (Acts 2:21)

As the Apostle John would later write in Revelation 19:10, "The Spirit of prophecy is to give a clear witness for Jesus." Today, this continues to be the Spirit's impulse. It always has been. God calls us to bear witness to Jesus in whatever language people understand so that all may clearly hear. At Bahia Vista we have a few opportunities to consider that would honor this impulse:

1. **Global Disciples.** This ministry equips indigenous church planters to take the gospel to the least reached areas of the world. Last year they planted almost 2,000 churches and saw more than 45,000 people come to a thriving faith in Jesus. That's an impressive number! But the reality is that 66,000 people still die every day without having heard the gospel. I believe we have both the interest and resources to begin partnering with Global Disciples this year. Our 2017 budget is a break-even scenario that focuses on meeting current obligations, and we will continue to fulfill those. At the same time, in the next few months we will be discerning whether there is enough interest and ability to commit our support through contributions that would not otherwise go to the general fund.
2. **Rebranding.** On Sunday, February 12, we have a church family meeting to discuss how we should present ourselves in Sarasota. Specifically we will ask whether it would be strategically helpful to our mission to rename our church. Should we take Mennonite out of the name to avoid misperceptions that many have in our community? People at Bahia Vista have been asking this question for years. It's time to listen to each other and discern God's leading.
3. **Each One Befriend One.** Most people in Sarasota have heard some expression of the gospel, but have not trusted or understood it. People do, however, trust and understand genuine friendship. Imagine if each one of us just befriended one person at a time—someone who is not a follower of Christ. And what if we asked the Spirit to help us individually live out the gospel for that one person's benefit? I believe with all my heart that we would transform Sarasota. The Holy Spirit wants to do this, so I am renewing this challenge to everyone in the Bahia Vista family: "Each one befriend one."

God says to each of us what he said to those first believers who turned the world upside down: "I will pour out my Spirit on you, and you will prophesy by bearing testimony to Jesus in ways that can be understood—and everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." This is our mission.

Ministries & Operations

Pastoral Care. Gratefully, we have been able to provide Pastoral Care to many who have been requesting visitation and care with medical, mental and spiritual issues arising.

242 Groups. Donna Christner is serving as our 242 Groups leader. She will be promoting and helping to spread the word of various groups currently in place as well those coming up. This past Sunday she had a table set up in the court yard to talk with those that are interested in joining a group.

Children. Cindy Grant and Jeff Schwartz have accepted leadership of Wednesday night programming for pre-K to 5th grade, effective February 1. This satisfies our commitment to relieve Kayla Virkus of her midweek childrens ministry responsibilities. We hope to offer midweek nursery again in the future. Kayla has ordered Sunday curriculum through May, and will volunteer as one of our teachers two Sundays a month. We are also looking to develop a rotation of "special friends" to help provide special care for some of our dear children with special needs.

Youth. On February 1, we told the youth that David and Jessie have stepped down from staff responsibilities in order to focus on personal health concerns. A Youth Ministry Team of twelve adults has formed and are excited about developing a strong youth sponsor styled youth group. David will continue to teach throughout the month of February. Pastor Roger is providing staff oversight of this group. Karla Mumaw was asked by the team to provide administrative direction. A letter to parents was sent home with the youth. This will also be announced to the church Sunday morning, February 5.

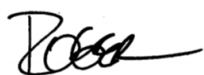
Seniors. On February 11, over thirty seniors will be going to a musical performance of "The Love Note" which features our own middle school student Abby Telinger. On February 15, 130 will take a four hour cruise to Tarpon Springs where they will tour the little Greek Village. On February 17, an information meeting is planned for those who are going on the Spring Caribbean Cruise in March. The twice-a-month *Living Joyfully Aging Well* sessions have been averaging around fifty people in attendance. Many of our seniors have also been helping to renovate the Bahia Vista Community Builders house in Village Green for sale this winter, with proceeds going to the church. We are so blessed to have seniors that are active and want to serve wherever they can be used!

Special Events. In January we enjoyed concerts by The Chuck Wagon Gang and The Kramers, and are looking forward to the Bontrager Family and Aaron Stutzman (the yodeler) in February, as well as several food-fundraisers this winter. We are also very excited to host an all day conference on March 11 called "Hope Heals: A True Story of Overwhelming Loss and an Overcoming Love." This conference will run from 9am-3pm with worship and three speaking sessions. Tickets are \$25.

Facilities. We removed the old landscaping in the center island at our entrance, and have added an irrigation system along with new landscaping. We are removing the outdated steel light pole and replacing it with one that is more decorative and efficient. Also, much thanks to those who have been helping around the church with power washing sidewalks, painting doors and various odd jobs.

Staff. With our concurrent need for a Childrens Minister and now a Youth Minister, we are considering a new Families Minister position that would be responsible to support parents and guardians in the faith development of children from cradle to college. This would be a pastoral position with oversight of teams in providing weekly programming. We appreciate your ongoing prayers in this.

With faith and hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Ross' written in a cursive style.