

Bahia Vista Mennonite Church
Overseers Minutes – March 14, 2017
Green Room

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

Members Present: Danny Remchuk (Chair) Dave Kniss
 Karissa Miller Miriam Nauman
 Nic King Ben Sprunger
 Dave Polen

Members Absent: Doug Graber Renee Krabbe

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

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Danny Remchuk declared the meeting open at 5:01 pm.
2. **Devotional:** Karissa Miller shared themes from a book recently read – “a shared story”. encouraging us to befriend others, sharing our story to show Christ living in us. There are many uses of the word “Christian” and we claim that Jesus said “No one comes to the Father except by Me.” Karissa led in opening prayer.
3. **Minutes:** Danny Remchuk declared February 7, 2017 minutes approved as distributed. (attached)
4. **Open Floor for Members comments :** none.
5. **New/Unfinished Business:**
 - a. MCUSA: Ben Sprunger reported he attended the recent Mennonite Education Agency meeting in Jacksonville, FL. A brief written report by Ervin Stutzman, Executive Director of MCUSA was distributed for discussion.
 - b. Response to February 28 meeting with SMC Moderator, Michael Zehr: Following discussion, it was agreed to wait until after the March 25th Annual Meeting in Homestead, FL., before making a decision to pay dues.
 - c. Rebranding: Pastor Roger reviewed the previous two meetings held. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to keep moving forward in the process by beginning to solicit name suggestions as well as concerns. The Congregational meeting on April 30, 2017 will give opportunity for feedback.
- 6 **Reports:**
 - a. Pastor Roger Shenk reviewed his monthly Report. (attached)
 - b. Finance: The February 2017 statement was reviewed, indicating a month end slight deficit, but the overall YTD is positive. (attached).

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. Revise Appointment of Delegates/Representatives to Mennonite Organization Policy: Pastor Roger recommended that the Overseers revise the Policy and Procedure manual to consolidate SMC and MCUSA delegates. MSA: Karissa Miller, Miriam Nauman.
- b. Appoint Substitute SMC Delegate: Pastor Roger recommended that the Overseers appoint Mike Christner as substitute delegate to Southeast Mennonite Conference in place of Donna Christner: MSA: Dave Kniss, Nic King.
- c. Revise Appointment Process for Ministers Policy: Pastor Roger recommended that the Overseers revise the Policy and Procedure manual to simplify the appointment process for ministers: MSA: Dave Polen, Miriam Nauman.

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 6:55 pm

Upcoming Events:

- Southeast Mennonite Conference Annual Meeting, March 25, 2017 in Homestead
- Overseers Meeting, **Monday**, April 10, 2017
- Church Family Meeting, Sunday, April 30, 2017 at 6pm
- Mennonite Church USA Convention, July 4-8, 2017 in Orlando.

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

March 10, 2017—Bahia Vista Mennonite Church

Befriending all with the love of Christ...

A memorial hangs on the west wall of our auditorium, framed with a couple hundred signatures on it. It marks a day seven years ago when we consecrated ourselves to the Lord to see him do amazing things among us (Joshua 3:5). The church stepped in with both feet.

Many of the people we know as our Bahia Vista family today weren't here back then. You could even say they *are* the amazing things. I thank God for the people he's brought to faithfulness here, as well as the believers whom he has called to come join our mission. At the same time, I believe he has even *more* amazing things for us than we've seen yet.

I suspect most of us pass by the memorial like it's just a familiar decoration. And I wonder if we do the same thing with our mission statement. It was discerned during those days too: "To befriend all with the love of Christ through community, worship, and service."

It has guided our leadership decisions throughout, affecting our teaching, staffing, ministry programs, and budgets. However, where it *really* puts feet on the ground is in a four word charge: "Each one befriend one."

If each of us would again consecrate ourselves to befriending just one person at a time, loving them with the love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, we would see God do even more amazing things than these. We actually *could* reach Sarasota with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Let's not lose sight of that vision.

Rebranding Discussion. On Sunday, February 12, we had the first church family meeting to discuss whether we should rebrand our church in order to reach more people. We took a poll at the beginning of the meeting and found that 64% of those present had enthusiasm about the discussion, while 28% had reservations. There is a second discussion scheduled for Sunday afternoon, March 12. We will continue to discern this patiently and deliberately, giving opportunity for people to speak into it, and then will follow the wisdom and leading of the Spirit.

Ministries & Operations

Pastoral Care. We continue to care for people in the sorrows and celebrations of life. We give our condolences to the families of long time members Saloma Albrecht (Indiana) and Lula Ross. We also celebrate the marriage of Josh and Alyse Morris, and the birth of Kiké to Alan and Chelsey Hernandez.

242 Groups. The Tuesday evening prayer group led by Nic and Samantha King recently welcomed a room full of people as we anointed two persons for healing. The second round of the *Next Steps* class is nearing completion with five participants. Three will be baptized. A few new groups will be starting soon.

Children. Teachers are generally scheduled through the end of April, with a need for an additional teacher beginning in April. We are still developing a team of "special friends" to provide care for some of our children who need individual attention.

Youth. The Youth Ministry Team is fulfilling all youth ministry responsibilities under the coordination of Karla Mumaw. She is scheduling weekly teachers under Pastor Roger's direction. A spring break beach party is scheduled for Wednesday evening, March 15.

Seniors. Some sixty seniors took a seven day Caribbean cruise the week of March 4. Such events are helpful in building relationships, but not everyone has the health and financial capacity to take advantage of it. So, without discontinuing such events, we will be focusing more effort on hosting activities that are accessible to more people most of the time.

Special Events. We've had many different concerts this winter season, which were well attended and enjoyed. Thanks to our ushers and sound technicians who faithfully serve at all these events. Now we are looking forward to the *Hope Heals* Conference and *New Life Sound* concert in March, and a *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* and *Easter Egg Hunt* in April.

Facilities. Recently an 81 year old was trapped in one of our single user bathrooms because of a failed door knob. Our facility has served us well, but it needs to be renovated. It's time to begin taking steps toward implementing the master plan that was approved two years ago.

Staff. We have received seven applications for the Families Minister position and are having initial interviews. A recommendation will be made per the Policy and Procedures Manual. A new fulltime minister will change staff chemistry, bringing new skills and experiences to the mix. We anticipate this blessing, and are preparing accordingly. Recently five of us attended the Catalyst One Day conference in Orlando where Andy Stanley and Graig Groeschel taught on church leadership.

With faith and hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.