

Bahia Vista Mennonite Church
Overseers Minutes
April 18, 2017, 5PM
Green Room

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

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

Members Absent: Ben Sprunger

Pastoral Team Present: Pastor Roger Shenk Shirley Good
Mike Christner

1. Call to Order: Chair Danny Remchuk declared the meeting open at 5:00 pm.

2. Devotional: Doug Graber opened with prayer preceded by a short devotion referencing Malachi 3. Where Paul is calling the church to be generous, Doug asked that leaders be generous givers setting an example for all.

3. Minutes: Danny Remchuk declared March 14, 2017 minutes approved as distributed. (attached)

4. Open Floor for Members Comments: None

5. New/Unfinished Business:

- a) Update and counsel on rebranding discussion: Pastor Roger Shenk reported on the rebranding discussion at our March 12th Church Family Meeting. (attached)

6. Reports:

- a) Pastor Roger Shenk reviewed his monthly report. (attached)
- b) Finance: Mike Christner reported income is up almost \$16,000.00. (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) That the overseers recommend Kevin Bowder to the congregation for the position of Families Minister. Kevin was present to answer questions. Renee Krabbe / Dave Kniss MSA. Approved unanimously. (attached)
- b) That the Overseers release Southeast Mennonite Conference contributions suspended January 9th. Miriam Nauman / Doug Graber MSA. Approved by a vote of 7 in favor and 1 against. (attached)

9. Other Business: (None)

10. Executive Session: (None)

11. Closing Prayer: Pastor Roger closed in prayer.

12. Adjourn: 7:44 pm

Upcoming Events:

- Church Family Meeting, April 30, 6pm
- Overseers, Monday, May 8, 5pm
- Mennonite Church USA Convention, July 4-8, Orlando

Secretary, Renee Krabbe

Recording Secretary, Catharine Christner substituting for 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

April 17, 2017—Bahia Vista Mennonite Church

Befriending all with the love of Christ...

The joy of this church family was evident in each of our Easter activities this year. From our Good Friday memorial to the Saturday Egg Hunt, to our Sunday worship service, I heard so many words of affirmation, not just about programming decisions but, more importantly, about the love of Jesus among us. Amen.

I have the awesome privilege of standing before the gathered church each week, and it's inspiring to look over the congregation and see the faces of people who just months ago were alienated from God and his grace. But now, with smiles and tears, they tell me how Jesus has given them new life! We are so blessed. May God add even more blessing to his Word among us.

Our congregation is responding well to the encouragement to "each one befriend one" by inviting friends and family to church. There are so many new faces! Of course, befriending is more than just inviting. My prayer is that each will quickly feel like part of the family, and especially the family of faith. Let's continue to look for opportunities to include them in our inner circles.

Rebranding Discussion. Our March 12 Church Family Meeting provided further opportunity to voice concern or support for changing the name of our church, and specifically whether we should remove the word Mennonite. We took another poll and found that the congregation is leaning forward in the discussion, with 67% expressing enthusiasm about changing the name. Still, 24% expressed reservations, with 7% expressing "serious reservations." We want to listen thoughtfully to their concerns. At the same time we want to listen respectfully to the 51% who express "serious enthusiasm." At the end of the meeting I asked whether people think there is still more to hear on the subject. By a show of hands a considerable majority said all had been heard, while half a dozen or so disagreed. I continued the conversation by email with several of the latter and will represent that at the April 30 Church Family Meeting. We also invited people to send in name suggestions so that we could get a feel for the scope of change being imagined by those in favor of rebranding. We will present those for feedback at the next meeting as well. (Again, this is not a discussion about denominational affiliation, but about what we call our congregation.)

Ministries & Operations

Pastoral Care. We were given the opportunity to walk with three families during their losses and celebration of life services: Lula Ross, Gertrude Dietzel, and Joe Gravios. Struggles and losses come in many forms and we are privileged to help people during these times. Your prayers are appreciated.

242 Groups=Community Groups. After several years of calling our small groups "242 Groups" we're going to start calling them "Community Groups," presenting various options as groups, classes, etc. We are planning a Community Groups fair on April 30 for people to see what is available.

Children. Kathy Cydrus has agreed to a two-month interim Children's Director position and will be scheduling teachers, preparing curriculum, and generally attending to the classroom spaces and programming.

Youth. The youth ministry team continues to love the middle and high school students. Recent teachers have included Kathy Cydrus, Steve Cydrus, and Pastor Roger as well as a couple youth leaders, Jake and Aimee Smucker, who shared their stories. Wednesday night typically has twenty students which is half of what it was with David and Jessie. This is reflected in Sunday morning attendance as well.

Seniors. As our seasonal residents leave for the summer, they express great appreciation for our church. They are a joy to us as well. Of course, seniors ministry is not just seasonal ministry. We will continue our Thursday lunch, "Living Joyfully and Aging Well," throughout the summer. On April 22, seniors will meet for breakfast at Rothenbach Park to hear Dale Nauman share about his expertise on the Florida Eagle. (This event is already at capacity per park restrictions.) Then, May 5, is the annual steak cookout at Noah Weiler's where he and J.B. Miller will speak about MEDA's work in Cuba.

Special Events. As always, the staff reviews special events to learn what is effective and what is not. Some events are designed to create connection opportunities with unchurched people in our community. Others are to provide opportunity for the Church family to connect. Some events have a charge to cover the costs, other events are treated as a purposeful expense, and still others cost us nothing. The Hope Heals Conference was enjoyed by everyone who attended, but was not as well-attended as we had planned. To do it over, we would likely plan it as an evening event rather than an all day conference. New Life Sound had a decent turn out but was not effective as a fundraiser. *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* has been an annual event for many years and was enjoyed by the seventy people or so who participated. The Easter Egg Hunt continues to attract churched and unchurched people from across the street, and as far away as Bradenton, with very positive reviews.

Facilities. The covered hallways and south courtyard were recently pressure washed and repainted. We have added decorative trash receptacles throughout. We continue to work at making our facility a welcoming space and recently walked the campus taking notes of things that need immediate attention, things needing to be repaired in the near future, and a dream list.

Staff. We interviewed six persons for the Families Minister position, four of whom were from our congregation and highly qualified. Each graciously presented themselves for consideration with the disclaimer that, whether hired or not, they just want to serve their church. It is wonderful to have so many options. We are excited to be recommending one of them to the Families Minister position. Further, with the interim Children's Director position being filled (see above), we are feeling positive about the direction of our families ministries.

With faith and hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross".