

Bahia Vista Mennonite Church  
Overseers Minutes  
June 19, 2017, 5PM  
Green Room

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

<b>Members Present:</b>	Danny Remchuk (Chair) Doug Graber Nic King Dave Kniss	Dave Polen Miriam Nauman Renee Krabbe Karissa Miller
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Ben Sprunger (LOA)	
<b>Pastoral Team Present:</b>	Pastor Roger Shenk Mike Christner	Kevin Bowder
<b>Pastoral Team Absent:</b>	Shirley Good	Dennis Bontrager

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Danny Remchuk declared the meeting open at 5:01 pm.
- 2. Devotional:** Nic King read Luke 9:22-37 which speaks about 'Picking up your cross and live fully for God' We are to turn our lives over to God and follow Christ every day. Questions for us to ponder: Are we comfortable in the pews? Are we comfortable in our community? Are we comfortable in faith? Nic King led in opening prayer.
- 3. Minutes:** Danny Remchuk declared the approval of minutes of May 8, 2017 be deferred for approval at our next meeting due to an oversight - not sent to Overseers.
- 4. Open Floor for Members Comments:** none present.
- 5. New/Unfinished Business:** none
- 6. Reports:**
  - Pastor Roger Shenk reviewed his monthly report. (attached)
  - Finance: Mike Christner reported YTD net gain of \$18,749.
- 7. Committee Reports**
  - Finance Committee: None
  - Membership Policy Task Force: None
  - Conference Affiliation Task Force: None
  - Building Fund Committee: None

**8. Recommendations:**

a) Affirm New DBA: After lengthy discussion, Chair Danny Remchuk recommended we table the recommendation to the next meeting – July 10, 2017

b) Appoint Substitute Delegate for MCUSA Convention: That the overseers appoint Shirley Good as substitute delegate to attend the MCUSA Convention in place of Ben Sprunger who is on Leave of Absence: M/S/A: David Kniss, Renee Krabbe.

c) Proposed Resolutions for MCUSA Convention 2017: [i] That the overseers equip the delegates with their opinion about the resolution and conversation being proposed to delegates at the 2017 Mennonite Church USA Convention: M/S/A: Miriam Nauman, Nic King. [ii] Propose that our delegates be prepared to “gently instruct those who oppose” us (2 Timothy 2:25) by calling MCUSA to repent and renew its faith in Jesus Christ as Lord: M/S Dave Kniss, Doug Graber – 6 YES and 1 NO.

9. **Other Business:** none

10. **Executive Session:** none

11. **Closing Prayer:** Pastor Roger closed in prayer.

12. **Adjourn:** Chair Danny Remchuk adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm

**Upcoming Events:**

- Church Family Meeting, June 25, 6pm
- Mennonite Church USA Convention, July 4-8, Orlando
- Overseers, Monday, July 10, 5pm

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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 Danny Remchuk at [dremchuk327@gmail.com](mailto:dremchuk327@gmail.com)**

# PASTOR'S REPORT TO OVERSEERS

June 16, 2017—Bahia Vista Mennonite Church

## Grace Happens Here

Two things are true of us: We are a Church family, and we are a Missions Outpost.

As a Church family we enjoy being together. We worship together, study together, play together, and serve together. We get tremendous joy from it.

And as a Missions Outpost we love our neighbors as ourselves. This includes our nextdoor neighbors as well as our global neighbors. We pray for them to experience the full blessing of God's favor by putting their faith in Jesus, and by learning to keep in step with the Spirit through the wisdom of scripture and the Church. In an era where "church growth" evokes images of competition, we celebrate that we are part of God's universal Church, while not shrinking back from inviting our neighbors to come enjoy his love, joy, and peace in fellowship with us. We believe we've found something special, so we make room for anyone to become part of the Lord's Church here.

This year we have been looking at how to open our doors more convincingly to those who are either skeptical of our love for them, or simply put off by their misperceptions of us. We want to minister to the Sarasota community more effectively by going and serving people where they are, and by inviting them to come be where we are. I'm proud for how quickly our church worked through and accepted the idea of a name change. At the last Church Family Meeting we heard people say things like, "I'm one of those who wanted to keep 'Mennonite' in the name, but I'm a team player," and they went on to speak into what the new name should be. I believe this is evidence of the Holy Spirit among us.

For 30 years we were Tuttle Avenue Mennonite Church. Then for 37 years we've been Bahia Vista Mennonite Church. We are now proposing a new name for a new era. It addresses our resolve to be both sending and inviting. It says who we are and who we want to be, making this inherent promise: *We are a part of the Sarasota community, and we invite the Sarasota community to be a part of us.*

The new name we're proposing will excite some and disappoint others. Each of us will have a personal reaction to it, positive or negative, just like many of us had when we decided on BVMC. But I am confident that we will continue to move gently forward as we have been, with a mutual expectation of hope and enthusiasm for being a loving Church family, as well as an effective Missions Outpost.

**Worship.** Following Rodney's resignation I have been giving (and sharing) leadership of the second service worship. There is a growing responsiveness. Alta Miller plans to return to Pennsylvania for a couple months this summer, so I will accept similar leadership of the first service. We also plan to host the next Church Family Meeting on June 25 specifically for those who attend the Traditions service to discuss what they would like their service to be.

**Facilities.** This summer we will be extending our stage. Our masterplan provides for bumping out the stage wall (to the South) to create more stage depth, but it is more cost-effective to remove a few pews and build into the room. This has the added benefit of reducing seating capacity—which admittedly seems a bit counter-intuitive, but the rationale is justified. While we struggle to accommodate our crowds for three weeks every February, for most of the year we struggle to achieve any respectable density. Without density the worship experience suffers, and visitors are likely to feel uncomfortable. Further, most people these days prefer smaller auditoriums. We have removed two

rows of pews at the back so those who need the back row are not under the balcony. We will also remove two rows from the front center sections as well and one from each side to accommodate the new stage. Our fixed seating capacity will be reduced by roughly 125, with a reduction in total seating capacity (including chairs) by roughly 50. Consequently, a crowd of 300 persons will be at 70% capacity rather than the current 55%. Our summer crowds will still feel sparse, but we trust it will be an improvement, as will the deeper stage. We are also looking to these improvement to generate enthusiasm for other more expensive renovations, such as the first stages of the master plan.

**Special Events.** The 4th annual Bowl-A-Rama was a huge hit this month! We had over 80 people of all ages at AMF Gulf Gate Lanes. Nate Slone took first place with a score of 191. Next up is the Chili Cook-off on July 12th. Be sure to sign up at the Info Center if you want to compete!

**Pastoral Care.** On June 4 we welcomed new members, Steve and Kathy Cydrus, and Kevin, Ashley, Aunalise and Sienna Bowder. On June 8 we lost Bruce Glazener and continue to mourn with Wilma.

**Families Ministry.** Our new Families Minister, Kevin Bowder, has hit the ground running. He spent May focusing primarily on the youth ministry. In June he increased his focus on the kids ministry. In July he will do the same with the young adults. On May 21 he held a well-attended Families Luncheon.

- **Ascend Youth.** He attended graduations, planned several events (Worship in the Park, Water Game Night, Picnic, Bowling, XII Conference), continued to build relationships with youth staff and parents, utilized social media to connect with youth and parents, designed and ordered new youth T-shirts and made a fun parody video.
- **Little Eden Kids.** He attended Winshape Camp meetings to help plan and prepare for the camp while learning the ropes as the new guy. He purchased and set up a new kids check in laptop for Sunday mornings to help speed up the check-in and get parents into the church service quicker, making it a better experience for new visitors. He set up a Roku player and Right Now media in room 11. He has scheduled out the summer volunteers, communicating with them and adding posted schedules on the walls of the kids ministry rooms. He helped the Young Marrieds small group find a room to meet in for their weekly bible study and kids lessons on Sundays before service. He helped plan a future indoor gathering space for our kids. Much appreciation to Kathy Cydrus who served as Interim Children's Director.
- **Young Adults.** Esther Rydell has stepped up to help lead this group. She helped organize a shrimp boil at the Shenk's house. Our recent HS grads are invited to come to both The Gathering young adult events and Ascend's youth ministry events for the rest of this summer to help them transition well into their next season of life and ministry at our church.

**Seniors.** "Living Joyfully and Aging Well" continues through the summer.

**Staff.** We have hired Kathy Cydrus as the front office Administrative Assistant to replace Kayla Virkus.

We are very excited about the opportunities in front of us as a Church. Again, thank you for your prayers and trust as we lean gently but decisively into each of them.

