

**Bahia Vista Mennonite Church
Overseers Minutes – August 28, 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
 Dave Polen Doug Graber
 Renee Krabbe

Members Absent: Ben Sprunger (LOA) Nic King

Pastoral Team Present: Roger Shenk Mike Christner
 Shirley Good Kevin Bowder

Pastoral Team Absent: Dennis Bontrager

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Danny Remchuk declared the meeting open at 5:04 pm.
2. **Devotional:** Miriam Nauman shared from the book of Philippians, the example of humility of Christ. She also shared her story as a church newcomers and shared wonderful suggestions for future newcomers as well.
3. **Minutes:** Danny Remchuk declared July 10, 2017 minutes approved as distributed.
4. **Open Floor for Members comments :** none.
5. **New/Unfinished Business:** none
6. **Reports:**
 - a. Pastor Roger Shenk reviewed his monthly Report. (attached)
 - b. Finance: The July 31, 2017 statement was reviewed, showing a wonderful month and a YTD net gain of \$35,511.00 (attached).
7. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. Finance Committee: verbal
 - i. Doug Graber shared that the finance committee is looking into the land parcels owned by BVMC to determine if liquidating them is the best option at this time.
 - b. Membership Policy Task Force: none
 - c. Conference Affiliation Task Force: verbal

- i. Roger Shenk shared discussions which are ongoing with Southeast Mennonite Conference. He also shared that Bayshore Church (formerly Bayshore Mennonite) would be voting on 8/30/17 to formerly leave SMC/MCUSA and join with Evana Network. The vote is expected to pass.
- d. Building Fund Committee: none

8. Recommendations:

- a. Appoint Representative Member to Sunnyside Village Corporate Board: Roger Shenk recommended the appointment of Dennis Bontrager to replace Mike Christner as a BVMC representative on the Sunnyside Corporate Board. MSA: Renee Krabbe, Doug Graber
- b. Adjust Number of Corporate Board Members to Sarasota Christian School: Roger Shenk recommended that due to current membership numbers that BVMC's members to the Sarasota Christian Corporate Board be reduced from seven to five. MSA: Dave Polen, Miriam Nauman

9. Other Business: Doug Graber inquired if the agendas could be published to the Overseers during the week. Roger stated he would be able to do this.

10. Executive Session: none

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

12. Adjournment: Danny Remchuk declared the Meeting adjourned at 6:04 pm

Upcoming Events:

- Launch of Sarasota Community Church – September 10, 2017
- Overseers Meeting, **Monday**, September 25, 2017
- Southeast Mennonite Conference Annual Meeting, October 6-7, 2017, Ft. Myers

Secretary, Renee Krabbe

Substitute Recording Secretary, Daniel Remchuk

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

PASTOR'S REPORT TO OVERSEERS

August 26, 2017—Bahia Vista Mennonite Church DBA Sarasota Community Church

Grace Happens Here

I continue to pray that Sarasota would be filled with love, joy, and peace as more people become disciples of Jesus. And I think we have something special to share with our neighbors in that regard.

Rebranding

We are officially launching as *Sarasota Community Church* on September 10, but it is more than just a name change. It is part of a comprehensive rebranding effort to communicate to our neighbors who we are and what they can expect here. Many of the necessary changes are already taking place.

The business side. We have secured Sarasota Community Church as a DBA of Bahia Vista Mennonite Church, and have notified various entities such as conference, banks, utilities, etc., and will continue to notify vendors as the need presents itself. We will recognize checks made out to either name so that wills do not need to be rewritten. We have assigned new staff email addresses using the same format, by simply replacing the old domain with the new. We have ordered business cards, etc.

We have a new look. We have designed our logo. We have purchased our new domain, sarasotacommunitychurch.org, and created a new website, but we are keeping a landing page indefinitely at bahiavistachurch.org that explains the change, and redirects people to the new site. We have ordered welcome signs for the street, parking lot, and entry ways. New service team shirts are coming soon. We are painting the fellowship hall and kitchen hallway to give a fresh look, and are updating the stage so that it's more in line with current standards. We will be installing a new entrance sign in the median, and have begun removal of the old concrete sign. (We thought about preserving it near the pavilion as we did the Tuttle Avenue sign, but there was an electrical box built into it, so it couldn't be salvaged.)

New Worship Time. Beginning September 10, we will change the second service starting time from 10:45 to 11AM, and run Community Groups (aka "Sunday School" or "Christian Education") from 10:10-10:50AM. This allows people to participate in one of our Sunday morning Community Groups irrespective of which service they attend. (This addresses a concern expressed in our June 25 Church Family Meeting.) We will use this change to encourage second service regulars to show up early to create a welcoming presence for people who are visiting for the first time.

Community Groups. We will begin describing the Adult Education (Sunday School) Classes as Community Groups and promoting them more clearly as a next step for people looking to get connected here. This will be listed in the bulletin as such. We are also renaming groups for greater accuracy: *BV Young Couples* is now *Young Families*, and *BV Young Families* is now *Crossroads*. We are planning to offer another *Financial Peace University* on Wednesday nights beginning October 4, with scholarships for those who complete the class. This will be marketed to our neighbors as well as our worshipping community. We will also make another *Next Steps Class* available beginning October 4.

Concerts. On October 6, Newsong (christian contemporary group) will be in concert here for a Sarasota Christian School fundraiser. While their use of our facility is technically a rental, we recognize the benefit we will receive in publicity, as well as our partnership with the school. We are also in

negotiations to host Christian comedian Anita Renfroe (pastor's wife, mother, regular commentator on Good Morning America) for a possible October 19 concert.

Hospitality. We have visitors every single week, and we can expect to see more. Hospitality is an “all hands on deck” sort of responsibility. So we are hosting a “preparty” for volunteers on Wednesday, September 6, to pray and energize our commitment to hospitality on the 10th and following.

Northern family. We sent a letter to our winter residents explaining the change and what to expect when they get here. We are planning another letter in September and, if necessary, October. Some have already replied with enthusiastic support, but we understand that others will not care for the change. We are doing what we can to help everyone respond well to the changes by minimizing surprises and misinformation.

Ongoing Ministries

Of course, being the Church is about more than a rebranding effort. We continue our ongoing ministries of caring for people and helping them embrace the fullness of following Jesus Christ as Lord.

Worship. We have enjoyed the worship leadership of different people in both the Traditional and Modern services. We also enjoy a constant flow of visitors each week for our worship services—more than fifty persons this summer alone! Of course, most don't step directly into a weekly worship habit. Some are already believers. Some are not. And some aren't sure. We warmly welcome them all.

Pastoral Care. On July 14, Marion Miller went home to be with the Lord. Two days later, Alice Beachy left us at the age of 101. Both were residents at Sunnyside Village. We celebrate their lives and homegoing. On July 31 Kristin Remchuk passed away suddenly at the age of 39 leaving behind her husband Danny, and seven year old son, Cameron. Our church family showed great care for them. We continue to grieve with them while celebrating her life with an assurance that her reward is sure.

Lifestage Ministries. Kevin continues to focus his attention on programming for children, youth, and young adults. We are excited about recent connections with other youth groups from Bayshore, Bethel, and Community Bible Chapel. Dennis continues to focus on programming for seniors, and is working in a similar way to connect the seniors of various churches with whom we have much in common. To that end, Bethel's new Pastor of Care, Jason Beiler, attended our recent Living Joyfully event held in honor of our nonagenarians. I believe God's Spirit is pleased when we relate to other believers as family, even (and especially) across congregational lines. We will continue to pursue such opportunities.

Staff. We hired Tim Wyse to a part time maintenance position. He has a full time job with Sarasota Christian School as Director of Maintenance. We're excited about his addition to our support staff.

Again, thank you for your prayers and trust as we lean gently but decisively into the opportunities ahead of us.

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