

Sarasota Community Church
Overseers Minutes – September 25, 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	Nic King

Members Absent: Ben Sprunger (LOA)

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

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Danny Remchuk declared the meeting open at 5:01 pm.

2. **Devotional:** Shirley Good shared her personal experiences, beginning with her quiet time each morning. Shirley is honored to do the following: mentor and spend time with friends; opportunity to do visitation; counseling; premarital; aging well; end of life; grief sharing; change for a dollar; phone calls; Tuesday morning staff meetings; meeting with group of women studying “Shame”. God wants to have a relationship with us. God is good and loving. Shirley led in prayer.

3. **Minutes:** Danny Remchuk declared August 28, 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 August 31, 2017 statement was reviewed. An adjustment will be made (on paper) to indicate the Net amount will be down \$9,000, but the overall YTD net gain will be \$40,000. (attached)

7. Committee Reports:

- a. Finance Committee: none
- b. Membership Policy Task Force: none
- c. Conference Affiliation Task Force: Pastor Roger reported that on August 1, moderator Michael Zehr called him to explain that, in consideration of the events at the Orlando conference, the SMC leadership board was planning to recommend a task force to explore options of leaving Mennonite Church USA. Roger also noted that delegates have not yet received an agenda for the delegate portion of the annual meeting."
- d. Building Fund Committee: none

8. Recommendations:

- a. It is recommended that the overseers appoint Doug Graber as substitute delegate to Southeast Mennonite Conference in place of Donna Christner. M/S/A Karissa Miller, Nic King.

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 5:31 pm

Upcoming Events:

- Southeast Mennonite Conference Annual Meeting, October 6-7, 2017, Ft. Myers
- Overseers Meeting, Monday October 23, 2017 @ 5 pm.
- SCC Annual Meeting, December 3, 2017 @ 6pm.

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

September 21, 2017—Sarasota Community Church

Introducing Sarasota Community Church

We had planned a “soft launch” with our new name for Sunday, September 10. We began monitoring Hurricane Irma at the beginning of the week, deciding to be a non-anxious presence. I was in contact with a number of area pastors as we discerned our response. Shirley contacted those in our church family who might need assistance with boarding up their homes, or finding a better place to stay, or just managing their anxiety about the storm.

Then, on Friday the 8th, the storm turned toward us definitively enough that we canceled our Sunday services. That same day I recorded and broadcast a short sermon: “Preparing For and Praying Against the Hurricane.” It was watched by several hundred people, with many expressing their appreciation.

We knew that with our campus being in an evacuation zone, we cannot open as an official shelter. Nevertheless, we decided that (with plenty of verbal disclaimers) we would not turn away anyone who felt it was a better option than they would otherwise have. It spread by word of mouth. We had one staff person onsite who occupied the auditorium with her family and neighbors, including elderly parents on oxygen who said she felt safe here. Three other families occupied the fellowship hall. Another family stayed in the Green Room. One of the churches that rents from us occupied the Kids area. A homeless man and an Amish woman showed up too. We estimate there were 60 persons plus dogs and cats, some of whom showed their appreciation by making financial contributions to the church.

Our staff all chose to weather the storm here in Sarasota. The week following the storm we did not keep regular office hours. By Tuesday Shirley had everyone accounted for. As a church family we suffered no significant injuries, and some material losses to people's homes. Our campus itself lost a big pine tree out front, and had some soffit damage on module 18. The sewer lift station failed and was repaired later in the week. The soffit will be repaired free of charge by one of the families who stayed here during the storm. All in all we feel very fortunate.

The week following, someone asked me if we were going to launch on the 17th since we canceled the 10th. My answer: We already launched! We had planned a worship service that we would invite our neighbors to, but instead we served our neighbors as part of the Sarasota community. This is a powerful illustration of something we already knew: Being Sarasota Community Church is about more than getting people to come here. In fact, it's not even about trying to *reach* the Sarasota community. It's simply recognizing that we already *are* the Sarasota community! And we are the Church. This is our opportunity and call to love our neighbors with the lived out gospel of Jesus Christ.

Relief Efforts

Florida. We will be mobilizing our non-local relief efforts through Mennonite Disaster Service. I am in contact with Larry Stoner (MDS Disaster Reponse Coordinator) and Ervin Miller (Chair, local chapter). They are assessing the needs and looking for a coordinator to run the operations, which will most likely be out of Fort Myers. We currently have a list of twenty people from SCC who want to help.

Sarasota. Our local relief will come through being good neighbors. Our *Change for a Dollar* program is well suited for those with financial hardship. We also recognize love's mandate to minister to the spiritual needs of those in our community who are looking for spiritual comfort.

Programming

Worship. Our first service as Sarasota Community Church saw our largest attendance since 2012. Some of our seasonal residents were here checking on properties. There was also a number of new faces from the year round Sarasota community.

Events. Due to the hurricane, both the Newsong and Anita Renfroe events have been canceled or postponed. In October we plan to have a Fall Festival, coupled with an SCC Open House.

Lifestage Ministries. Wednesday night *Kids Club* recently finished a study of Daniel and is now studying David. *Ascend Youth* has welcomed the youth (and adult helpers) from *Community Bible Chapel* the past several Wednesday gatherings! We celebrate this partnership as opportunity to reinforce our shared conviction that territorialism has no place in the Church. *The Gathering* young adults group has begun meeting Thursday evenings for Bible study. The *Young Families* group continues to meet Sunday mornings between services. The Seniors Ministry recently held a movie night in the Fellowship Hall and watched "The War Room." They are also already planning another travel event for the fall of 2018.

Facilities. The stage completion was delayed by the hurricane but should be done in the next couple weeks. Kitchen roof repair is scheduled for after the rainy season. We permanently installed a video projector in the Fellowship Hall which can be used by Community Groups, rentals, and overflow as needed. The lighted sign at the street entrance will be removed soon. We hope it can be used by another church, or sold to help offset costs of the new monument sign which is still in the permit process.

Finances. When a church cancels Sunday services, it cancels an "offering." Many people don't think to make up for it in following weeks. Some do, and for that we are very thankful. Our finances are healthy, but we want to be able to respond to the needs around us.

Personal

Thank you to the church family for loving my wife so well during her recent illness from which she is recovering, albeit slowly. We both feel very loved by this church family and are very grateful.

Again, thank you for your prayers and trust.

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