

Sarasota Community Church
Overseers Minutes – January 22, 2018
Green Room

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

Members Present: Danny Remchuk (Chair) Dave Kniss
Karissa Miller (Vice Chair) Miriam Nauman
Dave Polen Mike Gervasio
Nic King

Member Absent: Dave Kniss

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 5:03 pm
2. **Devotional:** Pastor Roger Shenk reflected on leadership and accountability at the start of a new year for the overseers and Pastoral Team. Pastor Roger led in prayer and encouraged others to pray for this new year. Pastor Roger led in closing prayer.
3. **Minutes:** Danny Remchuk declared the December 18, 2017 minutes approved as distributed.
4. **Open Floor for Members Comments:** none.
5. **New/Unfinished Business:**
 - a. We are looking for a new recording secretary. Please give any names you might feel could do the job to Danny or Roger.
6. **Reports:**
 - a. Pastor Roger Shenk reviewed his monthly report (attached)
 - b. Finance: The December (year end) statement was reviewed. It showed a surplus of over \$30,000.
7. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. Finance Committee: none
 - b. Membership Policy Task Force: none
 - c. Conference Affiliation Task Force: Pastor Roger gave a written update. The Overseers affirmed the update and further communication.
 - d. Building Fund Committee: Pastor Roger gave a verbal update.

8. Recommendations:

- a. Recommendation: That the Overseers approve officers for 2018 as follows: Nic King – Secretary, Dave Polen – Treasurer. M/S/A – Miriam Nauman, Karissa Miller.

9. Other Business: none

10. Executive Session: none scheduled.

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

12. Adjournment: Danny Remchuk declared the meeting adjourned at 5:58 pm.

Upcoming Events:

- Overseers, Monday February 26, 2018, 5pm.

Secretary, Nic King

Interim Recording Secretary, Daniel C. Remchuk

PASTOR'S REPORT TO OVERSEERS

January 17, 2018—Sarasota Community Church

Welcoming the Sarasota Community

We finished the year strong in attendance and finances, and seem to be starting this year with a sense of hope. Like every year, we have challenges and opportunities in front of us, but God goes before us to protect us and lead us. So we consecrate ourselves to him that the love of Jesus might bear tremendous fruit among us and all throughout Sarasota.

Baptism & Membership. We will be receiving seven persons into membership on January 21, two by baptism. During the past eight years we have rarely promoted membership, and yet have received 127 persons, and baptized seventy-one. In 2018, we will experiment with promoting quarterly membership interest luncheons, with the first one planned for February 11.

Worship

On Christmas Eve we held two combined services: a morning worship service, and an evening candlelighting service. It is always a pleasure when the church family “meets in the middle” with regard to worship styles so that we can worship together. However, the case can still be made for purposefully distinct worship services dedicated to traditional and modern styles.

We have been focusing our sermons on practical wisdom for starting over: *Decisions, New Year's Revolution, How to Rewrite Your Reputation*—all based in the proclamation of Christ and wisdom of Scripture. In February we will spend four weeks in a spiritually and theologically meaningful series: *The Good News About Suffering*.

Community

Community Groups. As of the first of the year, our Community Group participation reflects 80% of our weekly worship attendance! We added two community groups in January: “Financial Peace University” (Jan 3 to Feb 28) is being hosted by Dale and Bonnie Hoover, with two dozen persons participating, and the “Next Steps Class” (Jan 3 to Feb 7) taught by Pastor Roger has six persons. Enrollment is no longer open for either class. The “Crossroads” community group which has met on Wednesdays recently decided to discontinue meeting regularly, but will remain a support group for each other. We continue discussions about other groups to be offered during that time.

Local Churches. Thursday morning, January 11, Gilberto and Elizabeth Perez joined Pastor Roger and fifty other ministry leaders for prayer hosted by ARC (The Association of Related Churches) at the Shore Church. Pastor Roger also continues to meet monthly for lunch with area pastors. There is such unity and mutual respect among many of the churches of Sarasota.

Networks of Churches. Pastor Roger has agreed to help lead worship at Evana Network's “Flourishing” Pastor/Spouse Retreat outside of Orlando (Feb 18-22). He and Wendy will use this opportunity to become more familiar with this network of Evangelical and Anabaptist churches that many of our winter residents and sister churches are partnering with. (The worship team will use the SCC auditorium for rehearsal Saturday the 17th, and are available to lead worship Sunday morning as needed.)

Service

Nepal. We have initiated our partnership with Global Disciples per the 2018 budget. We are sponsoring a table at the January 18 annual benefit being held at Bethel Mennonite. Then, from February 28 to March 10 I will travel to Nepal for the Annual Equipping Event, and plan to bring a report to the congregation Sunday, March 11. Please pray for my time with these Christian brothers and sisters of Nepal as they are trained in discipling among their own people who have never heard the gospel.

Dominican Republic. Retired Sarasota pediatrician Doctor Robert Shamsey has been attending Sarasota Community Church this past year. He will conduct his fifteenth medical missions trip to the Dominican Republic, April 14-21. He invites any from his new church to join him to give medical attention to impoverished Dominicans and Haitian immigrants. He provides organizational oversight, but each person is responsible for travel costs.

Puerto Rico. The Bahia Vista Community Builders is planning a trip to Puerto Rico to serve with Mennonite Disaster Service. Again, the coordination with MDS is proving difficult, but we are trying. And we celebrate that so far we have twice as many volunteers as we were hoping for!

Security. Our onsite security team has four persons serving on rotation in two-person teams. We recently met with a Sheriff's Deputy (Sarasota Christian School graduate) to discuss reducing, identifying and responding to threats. We were advised to keep the west sanctuary door locked during public services (open before and after services), and the Kitchen and Community Hall doors locked throughout Sunday morning. We recognize that this feels inhospitable to those accustomed to using those doors, but believe that in this time it is advisable. Thank you for cooperating with these adjustments as we continue to monitor their effectiveness.

Staff

Executive Minister. For 2018 we have budgeted for an Executive Minister to give full time pastoral leadership to our ministries and operations. Mike Christner has been filling this position since 2014, initially as a ¾ time position, augmenting his income by continuing to accept work in his own business. In 2016 his business demands had grown, so he reduced himself to ½ time to attend to them. Last summer he reduced himself again to ¼ time in what we thought would be a temporary adjustment. However, there is no relief in sight, so he recently and amicably resigned his position, effective upon finding a full-time replacement. He emphasizes that loves this church and looks forward to serving in other capacities. I have drawn up a job description and am initiating conversations with a few potential candidates before advertising the position. We will conduct this search per church policy, and with urgency but not as an emergency.

May all Sarasota be filled with love, joy, and peace, as we honor Jesus Christ as Lord.

With hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ross'.