

**Bahia Vista Mennonite Church**  
**Overseers Minutes – February 26, 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  
                                         Nic King (Secretary)                Mike Gervasio  
                                         Dave Polen (Treasurer)

**Members Absent:**            None

**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 5:02 pm.
2. **Devotional:** Danny Remchuk shared regarding Roger’s upcoming trip to Nepal and invited the Overseers and staff present to lay hands on Roger and bless his trip.
3. **Minutes:** Danny Remchuk declared January 22, 2018 minutes approved with following correction: Remove David Kniss from Members Present. (attached)
4. **Open Floor for Members comments :** none.
5. **New/Unfinished Business:**
  - a. We continue to seek a recording secretary for the Overseers.
  - b. Dave Polen shared that our accounts at Everence were drawing very little interest. The staff was instructed to set up a meeting with Mike, Galen, Dave Polen, and anyone else needed to see if there were other ways to earn greater interest or if a move of reserve monies should go to another bank which provides greater interest.
6. **Reports:**
  - a. Pastor Roger Shenk reviewed his monthly Report. (attached)
  - b. Finance: The January 2018 statement was reviewed, indicating a month end deficit, but February is looking better. (attached).
7. **Committee Reports:**
  - a. Finance Committee: none
  - b. Membership Policy Task Force: none

- c. Conference Affiliation Task Force: Pastor Roger gave verbal report of his and Wendy's experience at the Evana conference.
- d. Building Fund Committee: none

**8. Recommendations:**

- a. Approve the use of Unrestricted Net Assets to purchase needed items. Mike requested \$36,000 from the unrestricted funds (last year's overage) to purchase much needed items for continual campus improvement. M/S/A: Dave Kniss, 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 6:04 pm

**Upcoming Events:**

- Generosity Sunday, March 11
- March Overseers Meeting TBD
- Easter Sunday, April 1.

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Secretary, Nic King

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Interim Recording Secretary, Danny Remchuk

**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

February 21, 2018—Sarasota Community Church

## Welcoming the Sarasota Community

God continues to cultivate a Spirit of joy and peace here, for which we are very thankful. May he continue to transform our hearts to greater faith and love.

**Baptism & Membership.** We received seven persons into membership on January 21, two by baptism. On February 4, we baptized a teen and his father. On February 11, we had a New Members Interest Luncheon with 16 interested persons attending. We are praying over applications received from that meeting, and plan to bring in new members on February 25 along with several more baptisms.

## Worship

**Teaching.** I am excited for how God is honoring the preaching of his Word among us. The February series, *The Good News About Suffering*, has been well-received. Dennis will speak March 4 while I'm in Nepal. I will bring a report on Nepal, March 11. We will also treat this as Generosity Sunday. Then I will spend the next three weeks on *The Gospel Explained*, to conclude Easter, April 1.

We were again honored to hear from Myron Augsburger. On the evening of January 21, per my request he spoke about Menno Simons. I gave him a wide berth and he spent most of his time speaking on evangelism and the gospel—a testament itself to the heart of Anabaptism.

## Community

### Community Groups.

- On February 4, the Winter Friendship Class listened to Ben Sprunger and Myron Augsburger speak on what it means to be Anabaptist when Mennonite is not in the name.
- The Next Steps Class concluded its six-week course and asked to keep meeting. I have offered to teach through my *Counting the Cost of Faith* book when I return from Nepal.
- The Living Joyfully class is offered twice a month with speakers from within and without: Angie (Miller) Bastian, Myron Augsburger, Cal High. Much thanks to Nancy B. Yoder for her leadership.

**Networks of Churches.** Wendy and I attended Evana Network's "Flourishing" Pastor/Spouse Retreat in Leesburg (Feb 18-22) where I served on the worship team. There was opportunity for good conversations that give me an informed perspective to bring to the conversation with Southeast Mennonite Conference about affiliation if and when its decision to leave Mennonite Church USA is ratified.

## Service

**Nepal.** February 28 to March 10 I will accompany John Byler and Pat Hart of Global Disciples to the Annual Equipping Event in Nepal. Please pray for strength in body and spirit as we share in the blessings of God with the Nepali disciplemakers and church planters. As stated, I plan to bring a report to the congregation Sunday, March 11.

**Puerto Rico.** The Bahia Vista Community Builders is planning for a mid-March trip to help the Academia Mennonita Bethania School in Puerto Rico.

**Dominican Republic.** We have twenty persons from various states participating in this medical missions trip to the Dominican Republic, April 14-21, arranged by Dr. Robert Shamsey of SCC.

## Lifestage Ministries

**Families.** As assigned, Kevin divides his time among programming for children, youth, and young adults.

- **Children's** programming is looking to Winshape again this summer. In January, Wendy Donovan attended the Winshape rally in Atlanta along with leaders from Abundant Life and Sarasota Alliance. As SCC we have decided to support it differently this year by using the same money to provide scholarships to more of our students. While this is understandably a difficult transition for the other churches, we believe it will result in more of our children attending.
- **Youth** programming is full with events like Winter Jam, Ascend Bonfire Night, Ascend Worship Night, a Paintball Event, a Boating Trip, and Ascend Glow Night. Kevin makes himself available to students for weekly guitar lessons (group) on Thursdays at 3pm.
- **Young Adults** have *the Gathering* on Tuesday nights, with a larger (multiple church) community-based group on Thursdays.

**Seniors.** Dennis continues to teach a Wednesday class and lead various activities. The seniors have spent a day in the Everglades and a week on a Southern Gospel Caribbean cruise. We understand that such things are not affordable for everybody and make an effort to achieve balance or provide scholarships. The goal of these events is to foster community and friendship, which they effectively do.

## Staff

**Executive Minister.** On January 24 we posted a job description (attached) on Indeed.com and have received 52 applications to date. Many are qualified but several piqued our interest. Our discernment process is as follows:

1. Confirm spiritual and theological compatibility by written response
2. Interview for competence and chemistry with a team from staff: Mike, Shirley, Dennis, myself
3. Determine availability (whether we are on the same page with regard to compensation, etc.)
4. Call references for character and competence
5. Second interview with the rest of staff for chemistry, etc.
6. Third interview with overseers and others as deemed helpful
7. Present to congregation for affirmation

As of the writing of this report we are at step four with one gentlemen who would be available in June. We have interviews with other candidates as well. Please pray that our due diligence serves us well in discerning God's will.

**Maintenance.** Tim Wyse has resigned his position so that someone with more capacity can do it. We will be looking to fill this 15 hour position right away.

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

With hope,

