

## **MINUTES**

### **BOARD OF DEACONS/PASTORS**

Bethesda Mennonite Church

Henderson, Nebraska

January 8, 2013

Present: Dick Claassen, Blaine Friesen, Arlin Hiebner, Carol Janzen, Marlene Ott, Laura Steingard, Pastor Sherm Kauffman

Absent: David Quring, Pastor Andrea Wall, Pastor Jim Voth

**“A community caring for all God’s people,  
Being transformed by Christ’s love  
Serving others as a witness of God’s grace and peace.”**

Dwelling in the Word from Luke 10:21-28 led by Blaine Friesen.

#### **1. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approve Agenda/Additions:
  - 2a. Reorganization of Deacon Board will be postponed until Deacon Retreat
  - Add 2a. Membership Transfers
  - 2f. Daphne Hall, Moderator - Deacon Selection Process
  - 3c. was moved to Items Requiring Board Action.
- b. Minutes of December 11, 2012 meeting were approved.

#### **2. ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**

- a. Membership Transfers. Motion by Dick to accept the transfers of Dale and Lennett Siebert, Clinton Siebert, Rick & Alyssa Bartek. Second by Blaine. Motion passed with one absent. Arlin will talk to Cindy about listing these membership transfers in the bulletin.
- b. Deacon/Pastor Retreat February 2, 2013 at Holiday Inn in York. Agenda committee is Arlin, Sherm, Marlene and Blaine. Meals of Deacons and other expenses are paid from our budget. Deacons will each personally pay for the supper of spouse. Arlin will leave the deposit we made earlier to the Aurora Leadership Center, in case we can use it in the event we hire a Lead Pastor or have a Retreat of some kind at a later date.
- c. Annual Meeting Oral Report. If there is something we want to report from the Deacon Retreat, there is opportunity for Arlin to do that at the meeting.
- d. Pastor Andrea Youth Ministry Council Meeting May 7-10 in Goshen. Shana Boshart has invited her to attend these meetings with a cost of \$300. The Board approved her use of continuing education funds. Motion by Carol, second by Blaine to approve. Approved with one absent.
- e. Approve 2013 Catechism Class. Pastor Andrea’s report listed nine members (Freshmen through Seniors) in the class beginning on February 10. Motion by Blaine, second by Dick to approve. Approved with one absent.
- f. Daphne Hall, Moderator, joined us to share information regarding the Deacon Selection Process Revision which will be presented at the Annual Meeting. What the committee (Daphne Hall, Arlyce Friesen, Carol Janzen, Ron Goertzen, Pastor Andrea) has done is had conversations reflecting on input from the congregational meeting in September, and past experiences when there haven’t had enough names to fill a ballot. Daphne presented a few changes and enhancements to the current process. David Breckbill, CPMC support volunteer, talked at length about a Gift Discernment Committee

process, but the committee did not feel that such a committee is what the congregation desires at this time.

Next steps would be to have the proposal on the website, the committee will be available at the Coffee Spot on January 20 if anyone has questions prior to the Annual Meeting, and the two documents will be in the Annual Reports. Affirmation was given to the Deacon Selection Process Committee for the changes proposed, with a few wording changes for clarification.

### 3. ITEMS FOR DISCERNMENT

- a. Update on Rick Stiffney Leadership Workshop Review/Vision/Goals - will be discussed at Retreat.
- b. MEDA Conference will be held at Chances R on January 26. Phil Ebersole, moderator of the event, will preach at Bethesda on January 27, 2013.
- c. Deacon Selection Revision Report moved to 2f.
- d. Assign Deacons to begin process of review for Pastor Andrea. If the Congregation adopts Article III, Pastor Review Process, at the Annual Meeting, Andrea will have a wider congregational review in March as her 4<sup>th</sup> year. This review process was advised by Pastors Jim Lapp and Mim Book and CPMC to help us move forward, to postpone their review following a 5-year plan, due to the circumstances of the last few years at Bethesda. There are some resources from the Conference that can help us determine who should be involved in the Review, which we will look at. Pastor Jim's Review would be in May, following this process.
- e. Begin discussing Easter Plans, March 31. Pastors/Ministry Team are in charge of these services. Maundy Thursday services, March 28, will include Communion. The idea of meeting around tables and experiencing the "fullness of Christ" was shared – sharing juice and a loaf of bread and eating until you are "full of Christ."
- f. 2013 Leadership Training. Do we what to do this again? More discussion at Deacon Retreat.

### 4. ACCEPT REPORTS

- a. Deacon Sharing.
  - i. Our Purposeful Plan Results. Blaine Friesen & Ken Bergen led an elective Sunday school class that met for 6 weeks to study this resource from the Mennonite Church USA. Blaine compiled a list of outcomes from the discussions on "Who is God calling us to be?" What are the next steps with this information? Follow-up suggestion was to look at the list along with the goals/visions from Rick Stiffney's Leadership Workshop at our Deacon Retreat.  
Pastor Sherm shared his experience with Sunday school classes and they are important for education and also to relationship building. He shared how each class designated a Class Care Giver who paid attention to who is not in class, illnesses, joys and this became a key to the growth of these classes. We all need to feel the call of caring for each other. Pastors cannot handle it all. Each class spent time checking in with each other and sharing what is going on in their life.
  - ii. The Sunday Evening Committee needs 2 additional people to help take down the Christmas Trees. Arlin will talk to the Men's Bible study Group for help.
- b. Ministry Team Reports were shared in writing with oral updates.
  - i. Sanctuary sound quality. No Report
- c. Financial Reports
- d. Benevolent Fund.
  - i. No new requests.
  - ii. Approval of a new request was made.

e. Church Council Minutes of December 20 were reviewed.

5. PERSONNEL

6. NEXT MEETING INFORMATION/PLANNING

- a. Date: February 12, 2013, 7:00 pm
- b. Devotions: David Quiring "Dwelling in the Word" Luke 10

7. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

- a. Pastoral Congregation Relations Committee
- b. Rick Stiffney Leadership Workshop Review/Visions/Goals (Review at Deacon Retreat)
- c. 2013 Leadership Training
- d. Professional Liability Insurance for Pastors

Arlin Hiebner, Chair

Carol Janzen, Secretary

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF DEACONS/PASTORS

Bethesda Mennonite Church

Henderson, Nebraska

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Present: Blaine Friesen, Arlin Hiebner, Marlene Ott, David Quiring, Laura Steingard

Pastors Sherman Kauffman, Jim Voth and Andrea Wall

Absent: Carol Janzen

**“A community caring for all God’s people.  
being transformed by Christ’s love,  
serving others as a witness of God’s grace and peace.”**

Pastor Sherm opened the meeting with devotions, “Dwelling in the Word.” The group reflected on two passages of Scripture - Acts 2:14-21 and Acts 10. Each participant listened as this Scripture was read aloud. They also silently “Dwelt in the Word”, choosing words or phrases that spoke to them. These thoughts and insights were shared with the entire group. Pastor Sherm also read several excerpts from *Everything starts from Prayer*, a book by Mother Theresa, and closed with prayer.

Following devotions, Arlin Hiebner shared that Margaret Hiebner’s surgeries are scheduled for March 21 and March 28 at the Omaha Medical Center, Creighton Tower. Blaine Friesen led the group in prayer for Margaret and Arlin.

#### 1. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Agenda/Additions.
- b. Approve Minutes – January 8, 1013.

The January 8, 2013, minutes were approved with a request from Pastor Andrea that an additional name be added to the 2013 Catechism Class. (From 2 e. **Items requiring Board Action**, January 8, 2013 minutes.) Deacons gave approval for this student to participate in catechism.

It was noted that confidential minutes were to be edited by Lead Pastor and Deacon Chair before being made public.

#### 2. ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

- a. Membership Transfers. Deacons approved the following membership transfers: Kyle Janzen, Carlee Janzen, Jeanna (Ott) Rose, Stanley D. Quiring, Gibbon Friesen. Motion to accept transfers by Arlin Hiebner, second by David Quiring. Approved with one absent.

- b. Blanket Authorization Form.

- i. Travel Expenses

The Sample Payment Authorization Form distributed to deacons was reviewed.

Approval of this form of payment would authorize the Central Treasurer to pay the following bills (in a timely manner, by their due date)

Travel and Visitation Mileage @ .565 / miles \*\*IRS rate for 2013.

Additional Instructions:

Mileage Reimbursements may be paid by Treasurer when Pastors present written documentation. Any expenses in excess of above amounts shall be reviewed by deacons.

Monthly reports of these expenses will be given to David Quiring, Deacon Board Treasurer.

ii. Visiting Ministers Honorarium Expense

Approval was given that requisitions for honorarium payments to be submitted to the Central Treasurer who would have the honorarium available at the appropriate time. (This system of payment was also given approval at the 2013 Annual Bethesda Congregational Meeting.) Requisition Forms will be available from the Central Treasurer. This process allows for timely payment to visiting pastors/speakers/groups. A motion to approve both the Travel Expense Form and the Visiting Ministers Honorarium Expense Form was made by Arlin Hiebner and seconded by Laura Steingard. Carried. Yes- 5. No – 0. Absent 1.

### 3. ITEMS FOR DISCERNMENT

a. Update on Leadership Workshop Review/Vision/Goals.

One item lifted from the suggestions reviewed at the Retreat was Greeters for Worship on Sunday mornings. Some time was spent discussing if/how this should be implemented and how this might be accomplished within the sanctuary. The prelude (organ/piano/Powerhouse) is a time of preparation for worship and minimum disruption is desirable. This item will be placed on the March agenda. Due to lack of time, suggestions from the Workshop Reviews will be explored at another time.

b. Deacon Retreat Update.

i. Spiritual Practices. This item will be placed on the agenda again.

c. MEDA Conference Update.

Pastor Sherm gave a brief review of this conference on Sustaining a Family Business, held on January 19. Presenters Lance Woodbury and Tom Moll were well received. Pastor Phil Ebersole preached the sermon during morning worship at Bethesda on January 20, 2013.

d. Assign three deacons to begin process of review for Pastor Andrea.

Marlene, Laura and David will assist with this review.

e. Assign three Deacons to begin process of review for Pastor Jim.

Arlin, Blaine and Carol will assist with this review. For both Pastor Reviews, Daphne will call the gathering. In addition to the three Deacons, Steve Michel, Church Council Chair, and two members from the congregation will be chosen at large to help plan these Pastoral Reviews. This group facilitates the reviews but does not evaluate.

f. Begin Discussing Easter/Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Plans.

Maundy Thursday Communion services will be held on March 28. Pastors will plan this event and Deacons will serve elements. Easter Sunday worship services will be observed March 30. The Worship Team will help plan this.

g. Congregational Leadership Training. Postponed.

h. Visiting Pastor's Honorariums.

It was suggested that language reflecting MC USA guidelines be inserted in the motion regarding honorariums.

i. Deacons as Greeters. The topic of greeters was discussed under 3.a. Some deacons were available to serve as greeters on February 24, but no definite decisions were made.

### 4. ACCEPT REPORTS

a. Deacon Sharing.

b. Ministry Team Reports.

Pastor Jim Voth attended a workshop in Lincoln, Nebraska regarding *Stephen Ministry*, a program focusing on congregational caregiving. He shared information about this ministry.

Pastor Sherm shared there was some discomfort expressed in the congregation following the Ted & Company presentation and his February 10 sermon. He suggested a time of open conversation in the congregation and will place an invitation in the Bethesda News for a meeting on Sunday evening, February 17, 2013.

c. Financial Reports.

i. Line 6070 Pastoral Care Expense

1. \$1500 Jim/ \$1000 Andrea/\$1000 Lead Pastor

Deacons affirmed that these are guidelines and resources are always available for pastoral care.

ii. Line 6100 Visiting Ministers Honorarium Expense

1. Currently \$100.

iii. Line 6090 Travel/Visitation Mileage Expense

(This is addressed in 2.i.)

d. Benevolent Fund.

i. New requests.

ii. Discussion re. past requests.

e. Church Council.

A few items from Church Council minutes were reviewed.

## 5. PERSONNEL

## 6. NEXT MEETING INFORMATION/PLANNING

a. Date: March 12, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.

b. Devotions: Carol Janzen "Dwelling in the Word:

## 7. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

a. Pastoral Congregation Relations Committee. Place on agenda for March

b. Professional Liability Insurance for Pastors. Place on agenda for March.

c. Conversation regarding Pastor Sherm's tenure. Place on agenda for March.

Pastor Sherm closed the meeting with prayer.

Arlin Hiebner, Chair

Marlene Ott, Secretary Pro Tem

## **MINUTES**

### **BOARD OF DEACONS/PASTORS**

Bethesda Mennonite Church

Henderson, Nebraska

Thursday, March 14, 2013

Present: Blaine Friesen, Arlin Hiebner, Carol Janzen, Marlene Ott, David Quiring, Laura Steingard, Pastor Sherm Kauffman, Pastor Jim Voth, Pastor Andrea Wall

Carol opened the meeting with devotions leading in the practice of "Dwelling in the Word" using the scripture from John 12:1-8 and opened in prayer.

#### **1. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approve Agenda/Additions:  
Agenda Additions: Telephone System Update and information regarding Ray and Aki Epp's program on Sunday evening March 24.
- b. Approve Minutes - February 12, 2013:  
Minutes were approved as received.

#### **2. ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**

- a. Membership Transfers were reviewed.

#### **3. ITEMS FOR DISCERNMENT**

- a. Update on Rick Stiffney Leadership Workshop Review/Vision/Goals. Revisited the goals that were highlighted at Deacon Retreat on February 2. One of the goals lifted out to address was Greeters for Worship on Sunday mornings. Contact was made with Gary Buller, previous coordinator of Greeters and he stated it was very difficult to find people to be Greeters and so it was eventually dropped. Because the Ushers already serve as "Greeters at the entry doors" it was suggested that the Deacons and Pastors "mingle and greet" in the Sanctuary prior to the Prelude. Deacons and Pastors will give this a try on Easter Sunday, and review it at the April Deacon meeting. At previous meetings we have discussed the idea of Welcome Gifts of Candy Bars for Visitors with a Greeting and the Bethesda Mission Statement attached. This will also be tried on Easter Sunday Morning. Pastor Jim will purchase candy bars and oversee this program.
- b. Pastor Review Update. A Pastor Review Committee met to begin Pastor Andrea Wall's Review. Members of the Review Committee are Deacons Laura, Marlene and David, and congregation members Jeff Peters, Kara Janzen, Justin Ott, Daphne Hall. They are looking at samples of Pastoral Review Congregational Surveys provided by David Breckbill to use in the Review. Andrea did not meet with the Committee this time, but will at a later date.
- c. Easter/Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Plans.
  - i. Easter Sunday services will begin at 9:30 a.m.
  - ii. There will be Fellowship time during the Sunday School hour. Stacey's cinnamon rolls will be served. Children through grade 6 Sunday School classes will meet. Someone will be designated to provide snacks for the children.
  - iii. Maundy Thursday services will be in the Fellowship Hall and begin at 8:00 p.m. and include a Tenebrae Candle Service and Communion. Laura will purchase gluten-free crackers for this service and for the Care Center. Marlene will purchase grape juice. Deacons will meet at 7:00 to prepare the elements.
  - iv. Pastor Jim will serve Communion at the Care Center and Rosewood Court at 2:00 p.m. on Maundy Thursday. Blaine and David will assist and meet at 1:00 at church.

- d. 2013 Congregational Leadership Training. Pastor Sherm shared that in his transitional work with churches, he has led congregations through a “Congregational Journey Wall,” a charting of decades of a congregation’s life in the midst of what was happening in the culture, broader church, and local congregation, identifying themes and patterns, and what could be learned and how it could strengthen the congregation. By consensus, Sherm was given the go ahead to begin planning this event for Bethesda’s Leadership, with the whole congregation invited to attend. May 5 was the date set for this event from 3:00 – 8:30, with a Mexican Meal served (in keeping with Cinco de Mayo!) This information will be shared with the Church Council and Ed Board and Service and Outreach as well as an update on the progress and work on the list of Vision and Goals from the 2012 Rick Stiffney Leadership Training.
- e. Review Visiting Ministers Honorarium. Pastor Sherm reviewed a handout that provided a suggested formula for determining a Visiting Ministers Honorarium. Following discussion, a Motion was presented to raise the Visiting Ministers Honorarium to \$225 with the Deacons having discretion to increase the amount in special circumstances. Motion by Carol, second by Arlin. Carried.
- f. Deacons as Greeters. Discussed in a. above.
- g. Pastor Search Committee Update. The Committee is reviewing an MLI and following up on some name suggestions.
- h. Sherm’s Tenure. Sherm’s 6-month tenure will end on May 5. Pastor Sherm reviewed his schedule from now through July, ~~and he suggested a~~ 60-day extension through June was discussed ,and that with the rent on the house being maintained through July if needed. Motion by Arlin, second by Carol to approve. Carried. There was discussion about whether Sherm would attend CPMC and MCUSA. Motion that Pastors Sherm, Jim, and Andrea will attend MC USA in Phoenix. Carried. Pastor Jim and Pastor Andrea will attend CPMC. Pastor Sherm will not attend CPMC. Carried. Pastor Sherm agreed to the 60-day extension invitation.
- i. Professional Liability Insurance for Pastors. Does our insurance cover this for Pastors? Yes.
- j. Catechism/Mentors/Baptism Date
  - i. May 12 – Jeff Michel Baptism
  - ii. June 16 – Proposed date for Baptism. Andrea is waiting for approval from parents. Approval was given if this date is okay with parents of Catechumens.
  - iii. Deacons will meet with Catechumens on May 12 during the Sunday School hour.
  - iv. The role of Mentors in Catechism and what do youth do following Catechism. Andrea shared some questions that have surfaced that will impact the shape of catechism in the future and faith formation. To move forward in addressing them, she has gone to the youth and parents to grapple with the questions from catechumens and presented the dynamics and what complicates this. Our blessing was given to Andrea as she leads these discussions. Andrea ~~already~~ has worked on a Catechism Covenant with the catechumens and parents. She is also addressing how to mentor youth from GCH who ~~and~~ will be returning to their homes, and other youth not closely connected to Bethesda, because they attend school elsewhere.
- k. Shepherding the Congregational Mission/Vision. Sherm shared that there is no one designated in the congregation to develop an overall vision of the congregation and no one who has the responsibility to carry that forward. Are the Deacons open to having a discussion at some time with the Church Council on this item? Yes. This will be discussed with Church Council to find an appropriate meeting time.is on hold for now
- l. Pastoral Inquiry Discernment. There are no current requests for support.
- m. Focus of Worship for Easter to Pentecost. The pastoral staff has had conversation on what to do with the time between Easter and Pentecost - 40 days to Ascension and 10 days to Pentecost. In the early church the 10-day period was a time of waiting and for prayer and



fasting as the focus...we don't know what is coming and we don't know the future. Arlin recalled an evening meeting to watch the sunset through the stained glass window with guided readings. Marlene shared that at MC USA, a continuous reading of the Bible was occurring in another place during the meetings. The pastoral staff was encouraged to develop their ideas further.

- n. Kevin Goertzen, Mennonite Mission Network Request. Kevin would like to come to Bethesda to meet with leadership and talk about a program called the Seedling Fund as a new way to provide adequate support for ongoing MMN ministries. His question is: Would we be open to him coming to make a presentation to leadership/council/deacons? Yes we would. Pastor Jim will contact Kevin and find out possible dates. Deacon Council Reps will share this request with the Council.
- o. Telephone System Update/Upgrade. Sherm, on behalf of the staff team presented a proposal from research done by and Brad Janzen and have met with Arlin Hiebner, from Mainstay, and a recommendation was presented Our current system dates back to the 1970's. Total estimated cost to update is \$4,541.92. A generous congregational member has volunteered to fund this project. Motion by Arlin that this Recommendation from the Deacon Board and Staff go to the Church Council for a new phone system to be approved. Second by Marlene. Approved by Consensus.

#### 4. Accept Reports

- a. Deacon Sharing. Ray & Aki Epp will be presenting an evening program on March 24. A social is being planned by Ray's family after the presentation. As a gesture of support to Ray & Aki, the Deacons suggest that a Love Offering be received at the evening presentation to be given to Ray & Aki, and that the Board of Deacons will contribute monies from the Deacon Funds if the offering does not total \$2,000.00. Approved.  
A complaint has been heard that the radio does not always carry the entire sermon. The Ministry Team is aware of this concern and is working to address it.  
Margaret will have surgery on March 21 and March 28. We hold Arlin and Margaret in prayer as she anticipates surgery.
- b. Ministry Team Reports. April 19-21 is Andrea's weekend off.
- c. Financial Reports.
- d. Benevolent Fund.
  - i. New Requests. None.
  - ii. Past Requests. Much appreciation has been received from recipients. Our funds are low, but there is an offering for Benevolent Fund on Maundy Thursday. Approval given to pay for April & May child care for a family.
- e. Church Council Minutes of February 26, 2013. Minute Lifted-out #5 from those Minutes was noted for discussion. Pastor Sherm met with the various persons involved with the development of the Safe Congregation and technology upgrades ~~the Technology Committee~~ and that work is moving forward nicely.

#### 5. Personnel

#### 6. Next Deacon Meeting

- a. April 9, 2013, 7:00 p.m.
- b. Devotions: Marlene Ott "Dwelling in the Word"

Carol closed in prayer.

Blaine Friesen, Chair

Carol Janzen, Secretary

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF DEACONS/PASTORS

Bethesda Mennonite Church

Henderson, Nebraska

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Present: Blaine Friesen, Arlin Hiebner, Carol Janzen, Marlene Ott, David Quiring, Laura Steingard  
Pastor Jim Voth, Pastor Andrea Wall

Absent: Pastor Sherm Kauffman

“Dwelling in the Word” led by Marlene from John 21:1-14.

#### 1. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Agenda/Additions:
  - Additions - 2 d. Fee for compiling of the on-line Survey.*
  - 3 K. Coverage for Monday April 15.*
  - 3 I. Dates for summer worship in Fellowship Hall.*
- b. Minutes of March 12, 2013, were approved.

#### 2. ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

- a. Dates for Baptisms.

Due to scheduling conflicts, two Baptism dates have been selected - June 16 and June 30.  
May 5 will be Baptism for Tyler Henry and Sandra Peters (Shawn). Arlin moved that we accept these dates for Baptism. Second by David. Approved.  
May 12 will be Baptism for Jeff Michel (previously approved).
- b. Membership Transfer.
- c. Membership Termination.
- d. Fee for compiling on-line Survey data and reports.

An On-Line Survey website, “Many Gifts,” is available for assistance in collecting and compiling the responses for an on-line survey for Andrea’s Pastoral Review. The fee is around \$100. We would also most likely use this service for Pastor Jim’s Pastoral Review also, which would be another \$100. Motion by Laura that we approve the estimated cost for the on-line survey for Andrea and Jim. Marlene Second. Motion approved.

#### 3. ITEMS FOR DISCERNMENT

- a. Update on Leadership Workshop Review/Vision/Goals.

The Deacon Board and Pastors will meet on April 18 at 8:00 to review these goals.
- b. Easter to Pentecost focus – call for 10 days of prayer and fasting Ascension Day to Pentecost.

The Pastoral Staff shared their desire to focus the time between Easter and Pentecost as a time to encourage prayer and fasting as a congregation... a time of in-between, waiting, anticipation. Deacon Board affirmed plans to move forward with this focus.
- c. May 5 Bethesda Leadership Training Event 3:00-8:30.

Laura will work with Cindy on creating an Invitation Postcard to be mailed to all those with Leadership positions. Andrea and Carol will discuss plans for an evening meal for 80 attendees, either using the youth or a caterer.
- d. 2013 Leadership Training Workshop “Conflict in the Church” at Wood River, November 8-9 led by Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. Information was received about this Workshop being held at Wood River, Nebraska. We shared about the weariness of the congregation of the topic of conflict. During their time with us, Pastor Jim Lapp and Pastor Mim Book suggested the Lombard Peace Center as a resource to the congregation during a time of conflict. Now, as we move forward, how do we continue to provide and present opportunities on the importance to develop skills on how to talk to each other, how to build

bridges, how to carry the message of reconciliation? This workshop would be an opportunity to tap others in leadership to experience the program and explore ways to bring it to the congregation. The Board of Deacons affirmed the workshop and will plan to have representation from Bethesda at the Lombard Peace Center Workshop on November 8-9, 2013.

e. Review Lead Pastor Job Description.

An addition was inserted in the first line of the Lead Pastor Job Description: The Lead Pastor, *(in consultation with the Board of Deacons)*..... As we search for a Lead Pastor, it is important that the Lead Pastor not be solely responsible for the vision and leadership and spiritual welfare of the whole congregation. Approval was given that this line be inserted.

f. Review plan for April 28 meeting with Church Council re: generative governance.

Who is responsible to whom? Church Council to Deacons? Deacons to Church Council? Is the Church Council the main governance body because they have representation from the Board of Deacons and other Boards? There is some fuzziness. Church Council and Deacon Board and Pastors will meet together on April 28, a Potluck Sunday, over the lunch hour until about 2:00.

g. Kevin Goertzen, Mennonite Mission Network visit.

This will be revisited at the May meeting. One idea is for a MMN focus at Thanksgiving.

h. Memorial Day Service May 27.

A portable PA system would be desirable for these services. Blaine will check into one. Blaine and Marlene will speak at Bethesda and Friesen Cemetery. David Quiring will ask Larry Roberts to speak at the Mennonite Cemetery.

i. Pentecost Communion May 19.

Parent Child Dedication is also planned for this Sunday, and there may also be a time of sharing by Clint Kroeker and Carlie Weisheit before leaving for Philippines. Consensus was for pastors to go ahead with planning for Communion on May 19.

j. Coverage for Monday April 15.

The Pastors will be attending Pastor Leadership at Schuyler. Marlene will provide coverage coordination for the day.

k. Summer Worship Dates in the Fellowship Hall.

During the months of July and August, worship will be in the Fellowship Hall. Blaine will check with Cindy about who is the coordinator for coffee and cookies in the summer.

#### 4. ACCEPT REPORTS

a. Deacon Sharing.

- Arlin shared a conversation with a former member who thanked him for his visit in regard to a decision to transfer membership.
- Marlene would like help in cleaning out the Communion Room and will let us know when.
- The new phone system will be installed on April 19.
- Many have expressed appreciation to the Pastors for the Maundy Thursday Service and Lenten Services.

b. Ministry Team Reports were shared.

- Does the congregation want to consider using the 12 Scriptures Project? Following discussion, decided that given all that is in front of the congregation at the present time, (pastoral search, upcoming leadership training, Easter to Pentecost) to put this on the future agenda.
- Mission Mosaic – in what ways could we be using them more effectively? The office will order enough for the Sanctuary and extras for individuals.
- May 7-10 Andrea will attend the Youth Ministry Council in Michigan/Indiana with Shana Boshart, meeting with other youth ministry workers.

- Andrea shared that she had found a curriculum to use for those who have just finished Catechism – “What do you do after Baptism? Making Disciples.”
  - Josh Janzen will be attending Explore! at AMBS. He and Andrea have worked out a schedule and involvement plan.
- c. Pastor Search Committee Update.
  - d. Financial Reports.
  - e. Benevolent Funds.
    - i. New Requests. None.
    - ii. Previous Requests.
  - f. Ray & Aki visit and offering.  
The Love Offering for Ray & Aki following their Sunday Evening program totaled \$2,619.
  - g. Stories of how God is moving in the congregation?  
Andrea shared stories from the Wednesday Evening Youth Group and Church History Night.
  - h. Church Council Minutes March 26, 2013 were not included in the packet because the office had not received them at the time of this meeting.

## **5. PERSONNEL**

### **6. PHOENIX 2013 DELEGATES**

- a. A list of delegates will be available at next meeting. How are we helping the Delegates prepare for the Convention? Arlin & Laura will suggest to the Church Council to plan Delegate meetings for Central Plains Conference and Phoenix 2013. The congregation should be made aware that the delegate meetings will be live-streamed from Phoenix.

### **7. NEXT MEETING INFORMATION/PLANNING**

- a. Date: May 14, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.
- b. Devotions: David Quiring “Dwelling in the Word”

### **8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION**

- a. Pastoral Congregation Relations Committee
- b. 12 Scriptures Project

Blaine Friesen, Chair  
Carol Janzen, Secretary