

## Faith Mennonite Church Church Council Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2023 and January 19, 2023 addendum

**In Attendance:** Donna Minter, Moderator; Andy Martinson, Moderator-Elect and Pastor Search Committee; thom bower, Transitional Pastor; Darrell Martin and Thaine Dirks, Finance team; Bruce Brunner Missions and Service; Matthew Hendricks, Fellowship and Search Committee; Karen Wiebe, Deacons; Jenny Wandersee, Council Secretary and Worship; Kristi Zabriskie & Roberta Malles, Repair Team.

Donna opened the meeting with a prayer. The group read FMC's Communal Values and did check-ins.

### 1. Affirmations:

- Thaine Dirks, for his excellent bookkeeping
- Darrell Martin, for his work on the furnace
- Miriam Augsburger and Karla Hovde, for their immense, excellent work on the recorded Christmas service
- Miriam Augsburger, for her leadership in Jan. 1 Music Sunday
- Karin Krisetya, for her song leading last Sunday
- Andi Kuenning, for all her work with migrant families

2. **December minutes and tonight's agenda.** December's minutes and tonight's agenda were approved.

3. **Financial Report.** Darrell reported total giving for 2022 was about \$163,000. There's about \$10,000 left in the migrant fund, with more money coming in. We'll probably pay more for gas in 2023 than last year. We thought we'd pay about \$47,000 for capital improvements last year, but it ended up being about \$70,000, so we had to take money from the Calvert fund. The fences we put up have prevented people from wandering behind the building. We probably won't spend much for capital improvements this year. Thaine said December giving is always high; this past year it was about 25% of total giving for the year. There was some discussion on how to plan for December. giving. We're planning for about an \$8000 deficit for this year. Based on this past December's giving, we're adding \$8000 to 2023 budget. The \$50,000 from renters provides a cornerstone for our budget. Bruce noted we have about \$100,000 among checking, savings and Calvert fund, which is a buffer.

4. **Repair Team Proposal.** Roberta shared that they propose a separate budget line item for the Indigenous Reparations Repair Team for [Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery](#) and [Makoce Iki cupi](#). These groups had \$1,500 for 2022 from giving by M&S. The Repair Team proposed allotting \$2000 for the new line item. It was opened for discussion. Darrell suggested we move forward with this plan. There were no objections. Karen suggested that we put it with the Property Taxes line item. Kristi commented that, symbolically, they would like the line item to not be under M&S and suggested looking at this money as a congregational commitment, not charitable giving. Darrell proposed making it its own line item, before Conference Support.

Donna suggested the Repair Team prepare a statement of rationale for the new line item budget to explain the congregation's commitment to Indigenous reparations. Bruce suggested we put the line item next to Property Taxes in the 2023 budget. Darrell and Thaine were fine with this plan. Darrell suggested presenting a more detailed budget to the congregation for those who'd like to dig into it.

All Council members were in favor of a line item below Property Taxes named Indigenous Reparations Tax with an amount of \$2000 with \$1500 shifted over from M&S. There was discussion regarding whether money left over in the Repair Team designated fund in 2022 would roll over into 2023.

thom said his understanding is that funds earmarked specifically for a particular line item are spent first. Darrell and Thaine will sort out how much of the Repair Team designated fund is left from 2022. They will send

the final budget to Donna, who will forward it to Brianna, to put it on our website. The Repair Team will put together a brief rationale statement for our congregational financial meeting about the new 2023 budget line item.

5. **Pastor's report.** Thom reported that Advent and Christmas were really busy. He has been working on all of the Sundays of Epiphany and done planning of Lent up to Holy Week. The deacons are recruiting others to help with Joys and Concerns. The congregational work being done at the weekend retreats is phenomenal. The third retreat, Jan. 21, will concern how our values affect decision-making.

6. **Commissions and Covid Committee:**

a. Missions & Service. They're making a final appeal for the migrant fund until 1/31/23 and conferring with the families as to how they'd like to receive final amount: as lump sum or divided into monthly payments until fund is complete. They're also working on a celebration for the end of the migrant fund with the migrant families.

b. Fellowship: There was great attendance at the game event and Day at the Lake - Winter Edition is coming up Sunday afternoon 2/12/23.

c. Deacons: They're actively seeking to recruit three more deacons because they're at capacity.

d. Worship: Covered by thom's report.

e. Covid Committee: They're watching the numbers. The second Sunday of each month is Extra Caution Sunday. Easter is the second Sunday of April, but we'll waive extra caution that day.

7. **Next meeting:** February 8. Congregational financial meeting will be Jan. 29, 2023 following online worship service.

8. Thom closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jenny Wandersee, FMC Secretary

**Addendum:** On 1/18/23 the FMC Repair Team asked that this new line item be called: Indigenous Restitution/Repair rather than Indigenous Reparations Tax. On 1/18-19/23 the FMC Council unanimously approved, via email vote, "Indigenous Restitution/Repair" as the label for this new line item in the 2023 FMC budget in preparation for the FMC 1/29/23 Finance Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Minter, FMC Moderator

This document was approved by FMC Council on 2/8/23