



EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

An Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada

“We strive to follow, love & share Jesus”

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 8, 2021 (7:00 p.m.)

Present: Terry Neumann, Mike Ettrich, Simon Winkelmann, Ingrid Maier, Monika Kosheiff, Ian Wood, Pastor Jesse Kane, Paul Budinski, Dorothee Hauf, Pastor Josh Mueller, Pastor Kelvin Kehler, Christa Ettrich

1. PRAYER / SHARING TIME

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- a. **Motion** to approve May 11, 2021 meeting minutes. Mike Ettrich **motioned**. Dorothee Hauf **seconded**. **Carried**.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Pastor's Reports

a. Pastor Josh

- i. Will be visiting Mennonite church that he is a candidate for on Friday and Saturday.

b. Pastor Kelvin

- i. Youth have been excited to meet in person again.
- ii. Camp: New COVID protocols allow for 20 person camp attendance (5 staff and 15 campers). Registration closes Sunday June 13.
1. Senior high day: July 5
 2. Junior high day: July 7
 3. Elementary day: July 9
 4. Lunch and supper will be provided.

c. Pastor Jesse

- i. New sermon series will start this week.
- ii. Transition plan document shared with the committee.
- iii. Hogan will visit the church tentatively on June 27 to share about his ministry.
1. Offering will be collected.

B. Financial Committee

a. Missions:

- i. Inner Missions income: \$275.00
- ii. Outer Missions Income: \$85.00
- iii. Inner Mission Balance: \$51,256.13
- iv. Outer Mission Balance: 5,457.50

- v. Total mission account balance: \$56,713.63
 - b. Church income: \$10,588.86
 - i. No rent from sister's suite
 - c. Church expenses: \$16,931.12
 - d. Net loss: \$6,342.26
 - e. Church account balance: \$526,709.90
- C. Property Committee: Monika Kosheiff
- a. Work done in sister's suite: New smoke detectors, paint, new light fixtures, new blinds, new washing machine delivered, keys changed
 - b. New garbage pick-up system is being put into effect at church building in Edmonton and at camp; Monika Kosheiff will explore options.
- D. Constitution Committee: Mike Ettrich
- a. Clean copy of approved constitution sent out to council members. Dorothee Hauf will proofread.
 - b. Committee continues to gather feedback from the congregation. Reasonable wording changes requested.
 - i. Edits that do not change the content of the constitution (i.e., grammar and formatting) will be changed. More involved changes will be tabled until the congregation can vote on an updated constitution again in the future.
- E. Evangelism & Social Justice: Pastor Josh Mueller
- a. Pastor Josh stepping down from committee.
 - i. Not much interest in the evangelical side of the committee currently; new spark of interest in social justice after residential school news.
 - ii. Emphasize sharing the gospel with neighbours, either in the Strathcona community or otherwise.
- F. Education, Youth & Sunday School: Paul Budinski
- a. Paul and Janelle Budinski are moving to London, England on August 14, 2021! Paul will be stepping down after the July 5 council meeting.
 - b. Hope to start cross-generational events.
 - c. Suggestion to recognize high school graduates.
 - d. Pastor Kelvin Kehler and Paul Budinski will meet to discuss future of committee.
 - e. Members: Manuela Faerber, Sydney Leddy, Linda Helbig, Allan Hildebrandt.
- G. Other Committees (as needed)
- a. Pastoral committee: Terry Neumann
 - i. Evaluation process reviewed and approved by pastors. Edits will be finalized before submitting to council.
 - ii. Siegard Wanke is considering being part of the evaluation process. Other volunteers are still being sought after.
 - b. Music and worship committee: Christa Ettrich
 - i. The worship team is still willing to lead weekly; however, there is considerable difficulty scheduling a team for every week with dwindling members (i.e., Christa Ettrich and Janelle Budinski stepping down) and with varying summer schedules among the team. June schedule has been adequately filled, but July and August have significant gaps in the schedule.
 - ii. Suggestions:
 1. Request students from local bible schools to volunteer their talents at EFC.
 2. With COVID restrictions easing, we can consider returning to one service per Sunday alternating worship team with traditional hymns.

3. Gauge interest of Spanish church participation in the worship team.

5. ATTENDANCE STATISTICS

- a. May 16
 - i. 1st service: 15
 - ii. 2nd service: 15
- b. May 23
 - i. 1st service: 14
 - ii. 2nd service: 11
- c. May 30
 - i. 1st service: 18
 - ii. 2nd service: 28
- d. June 6
 - i. 1st service: 23
 - ii. 2nd service: 29

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Council Positions

- a. Secretary: Pastor Jesse Kane will write minutes until secretary position can be filled. Simon Winkelmann will fill in ex officio minutes and keep electronic files.
- b. Worship & Music Committee: Ian Wood
- c. Education, Youth, and Sunday School Committee: To be determined
- d. Pastors will take on COVID volunteer sign up list in weekly planning.

B. Previous Year in Review & Year Upcoming

- a. What did we do this year?
 - i. 18 official meetings plus several emergency meetings!
 - ii. Fall retreat.
 - iii. Constitution revised and approved.
 - iv. Successfully navigated constantly changing COVID protocols and requirements.
 - v. Addressed petition.
 - vi. Setting up new committees and expectations.
 - vii. Building community by sending out care packages, making phone calls etc.
 - viii. Improving communication within the council and with the congregation.
 - ix. Welcomed the Spanish Church to the building.
 - x. Learning to rely on God's plan and recognizing that relying on our own strength and making our own plans will fail.
- b. Future considerations:
 - i. How can we motivate members to join council?
 - ii. How do we foster an environment of community? How can we enjoy each other's company?
 - iii. How do we transition congregants coming back to church after the pandemic?
 1. Rebuilding viewpoint/focus: not just from a numbers perspective.

2. Being proactive with re-engaging current members and reaching out to new people. Deliberate attempts to get people to connect to each other.
 3. Make church relevant.
 4. Challenge congregation spiritually (continue fasting and prayer events).
- C. May review & Reopening Planning
- a. Return to 1 service starting July.
 - i. Alternate weeks between worship team and hymns while the worship team rallies and reorganizes for the fall. In the future, we may consider doing a hymn sing before the service and then worship style music for the service.
 - b. Groups using camp and church (i.e. toastmasters)
 - i. Scout camps usually take place in the fall at camp.
 - ii. Family group bookings only are being accepted for camp during the summer.
 - iii. Toastmasters will tentatively be permitted to use EFC again when all restrictions have been lifted (anticipated to be by the end of June).
 - c. Serving coffee after the service will begin again when Alberta is in stage 3 of reopening.
- D. Pastoral Transition Plan
- a. Pastors plan to start meeting with the worship team to prepare for services prayerfully.
 - b. Reduce service announcements to PowerPoint slides, website updates, and bulletins.
 - c. Bible studies and classes
 - i. 2 primary intergenerational bible study opportunities will be offered.
 1. Sunday school classes held before services.
 2. Mid-week bible study with emphasis on prayer.
 - ii. Pastor Jesse Kane and Pastor Kelvin Kehler will alternate Sunday sermons and bible studies.
 - iii. Alpha groups and missional community groups will be congregant led.
- E. Baptisms/Confirmations
- a. Necessity of baptism as a prerequisite for membership will be addressed in future constitution revision.
 - b. **Motion** to affirm the membership status of all current members based on signing a statement of faith on their member application, regardless of being baptized or confirmed. Ingrid Maier **motioned**. Ian Wood **seconded**. **Carried**.
 - i. **Absentions noted.**
 - c. **Motion** to begin implementing the revised membership criteria outlined in the EFC constitution that was approved on May 30, 2021 when considering new membership applications. Mike Ettrich **motioned**. Dorothee Hauf **seconded**. **Carried**.
- F. Spring AGM
- a. A vote needs to take place BEFORE the pastoral transition plan begins in September to make Pastor Jesse Kane's position full time.
- G. Set-up of Pastoral Search Committee
- a. Mike Ettrich volunteered to head committee.
- H. Other Business (as needed)
- a. Calling lists will be re-distributed to council members by Monika Kosheiff.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

AGM - TBD

Council Meeting - ~~July 5~~ (rescheduled to July 13)