

# Altona Mennonite Church 2020 Annual General Meeting

Sunday, February 7, 2021 – 1:00 PM Via Zoom

Present: Kim Batchelor, Perry Batchelor, Loren Braul, Lori Dueck, Ang Enns, Gina Enns, Marge Friesen, John Gerbrandt, Lil Gerbrandt, Marilyn Houser Hamm, Ray Hamm, Harv Heinrichs, Kathy Heinrichs, Loren Hiebert, Lori Hiebert, Andrea Hildebrand, Karey Hildebrand, Crystal Kehler, Dan Kehler, Dale Klassen, Sandra Klassen, Harry Klassen, Susan Klassen, Margruite Krahn, Anne Loewen, Bill Loewen, Elaine Loewen, Ken Loewen, Karen Martens, Peggy Martens, Robert Martens, Doreen Mierau, Marne Mierau Friesen, Mick Mierau Friesen, Ray Mierau, Kevin Neufeld, Nancy Neufeld, Marlene Plett, Dave Regehr, Hildie Regehr, June Schwartz, John Thiessen, Norma Thiessen, Lloyd Wiebe, Lorrie Wiebe, Harry Wiens, Susan Wiens, Edna Zacharias

1. Call to Order at 1:04 PM by Loren Braul- began with some ground rules for a Zoom meeting, stay on mute unless you wish to speak, raise your hand if you wish to speak, use chat feature, or if not being noticed, unmute and speak

2. Opening – Dan Kehler

- Wondering what it means to be the people of God during this global pandemic. Schools, churches, and others have used technology like never before. We are a low-tech church, and rely heavily on Kevin Neufeld. Challenges include how to be more creative in church community when we can't meet in person. There are also many mental health challenges. Colleagues are becoming tired of Zoom meetings, these are becoming more personal and less business oriented. We should embrace this time of uncertainty, spend time in quietness and meditation.

3. Quorum – 40 members, 2 associate members, 3 adherents

4. Agenda

a. Additions, Changes - correction to Agenda page (8.1 - 8.8 changed to 7.1 - 7.8 to be adopted as a group)

b. Motion to Adopt – Moved Ray Hamm, Seconded Norma Thiessen, CARRIED

5. Appointments – Listening Committee

Mick & Marne Mierau Friesen, Andrea & Karey Hildebrand, Ray & Marilyn Houser Hamm

Moved to approve John Gerbrandt, seconded Marlene Plett, CARRIED

6. Minutes of February 9, 2020 Annual General Meeting

a. Motion to Adopt – Dave Regehr, Seconded Ang Enns, CARRIED

b. Business Arising

– 9.4 Custodians were named as Trustees. This will still be monitored

- Church structure still in flux, this past year didn't allow for proper review, will happen this year

- Constitution will be reviewed as deemed necessary.

7. Reports (*Reports 7.1 to 7.8 to be adopted as a group*)

7.1 Moderator – Loren Braul

- Noticed many similar themes in the reports so won't repeat them

– key words from cover page verses 1 Peter 1:1-2 – scattered and sprinkled are words of distribution. Scattered implies chaos and sprinkled implies a degree of care. We feel

scattered this year, but where have we been sprinkled? What relationships have grown this past year? Who has been in our bubble?

- In 2020, two themes – how to worship during COVID, and our pastoral arrangements – these also go with scattered and sprinkled – gathering together seems so special
- Reviewed time line with our worshipping together, and Dan's leave of absence
- We are grateful to Dave & Hildie Regehr for taking on pastoral duties
- *Perry Batchelor - proud and thankful for AMC's ability to pivot when health restrictions required us to (perspective of law enforcement) and the changes to how we record, and video our services.*
- *Peggy Martens - The video is appreciated, so nice to see the inside of the church, the visuals, Margruite's paintings, and the people who are participating in the recorded services.*
- Tension or paradox between being scattered and being sprinkled is interesting

#### 7.2 Pastor – Dan Kehler

- majority of year focused on returning to good mental health. Grateful to the AMC congregation for the generosity in giving him the space to heal, and also all the words of encouragement Named specific people who kept AMC going and helped him when he returned. Some brain fog remains.
- Taken away a deeper desire and appreciation for how the people of God work together.

#### 7.3 Interim Pastor – Dave Regehr

- In addition to the written report, they are also grateful to the congregation for willingness to work with them again. The Formation and Worship commissions have worked hard to make good things happen, despite the challenges.
- We have opportunity to reset or rethink who we are as a congregation and who we are in the community. We can recommit ourselves to our vision statement.
- *Ray Hamm – we can't applaud in the Zoom meeting, but thanks to the Regehrs.*

#### 7.4 Worship Committee – Lori Dueck

- This has been an exceptional year for the worship committee – connecting from a distance, finding new ways to worship, sometimes very quickly
- Grateful for people who wore masks, sitting in a taped off pew, making space to worship at home, those came to record services, provided visuals, etc.
- Special thanks to Kevin Neufeld who has been keeping us together technologically.
- Reviewed the themes of the year
- Welcome input as we move forward
- *Marlene Plett – Thanks to worship committee for all their work, and introducing us to doing new things.*

#### 7.5 Formation (Education) Committee – Sandra Klassen

- We tried to connect with people in the neighbourhood, and with our Sunday School children while acknowledging that on-line is hard. Wanting to honour families who are schooling on line from time to time. Craft kits have been delivered relating to the preaching themes, this has been well received.

#### 7.6 Trustees – Dale Klassen/Sandra Klassen

- Church has been opened and closed as possible and sanitized as necessary.
- Spring plans include redoing the front concrete steps, and adding a wheelchair ramp alongside the building at a future date. These will be designed together to be integrated when possible. An automatic door would also be needed.
- The stairs are crumbling from the underside, so they really need to be replaced.
- *Ray Hamm – thanks to the people who got the sound system and video camera.*

- Robert Martens – *is it possible that the ramp is added at the same time to avoid looking horrible? Should the ramp be the priority? Robert is ready to help with fund-raising.*
- Norma Thiessen – *want the project to be attractive, shrubbery etc.*
- Bill Loewen also willing to be part of sub-committee to look at overall plan.
- Marilyn Houser Hamm – *grateful for the leadership that is moving this project forward to being a welcoming church. Also grateful to Dale & Sandra for all their work.*

## 7.7 Conference Reports

1. MC Manitoba – AGM coming up
2. MC Canada – check online [www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/83/10101](http://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/83/10101)
3. Canadian Mennonite

## 7.8 Adopt reports – Moved by Margruite Krahn, Seconded by Ang Enns – CARRIED

## 8.0 Treasurer Report – Norma Thiessen

- Thanks to all who have reported, and have worked to keep AMC going, and participating in new ways.

### 8.1 - reviewed various budget lines under current assets

- giving per person, average contributions per person there for information/interest
  - Some of the Voices Together costs will be part of the 2021 budget
  - Income statement – Completed all giving through the third quarter, some donations not fulfilled. Pastor salaries were higher.
  - Some costs are fixed regardless of Pandemic.
  - Perry Batchelor – *is Dan's time away covered by any insurance?* – The LTD not feasible for this time. Sick days, holiday time, then EI was used for sick leave related reasons.
  - John Gerbrandt – *was sabbatical time/funds considered?* Yes, but giving met the financial needs, as well as the money we would have put into the account this year was not done. Some funds were used to cover other expenses.
  - *definition of sabbatical fund?* - Sabbatical allows the pastor to take a break for education and growth. The funds provide money to cover the pastor's absences. There is an expectation that the pastor returns to the church following the sabbatical.
  - Marge Friesen – *Clarification - Our sabbatical fund is not the same as a deferred salary plan.*
  - Marilyn Houser Hamm – *affirm the need for pastoral sabbatical, we need to care for our pastor. If we were only \$3000 short of our conference commitment, could we add that now? The conference needs our support as well, as they provide the wider sense of identity.*
  - Loren Braul – *The amounts we give to conference and affiliates hasn't changed even though the numbers of AMC contributors is smaller.*
  - Kim Batchelor – *We got funding for the audio/visual. Was there any other COVID funding we could have used?* Not that we could have used easily.
  - our budget is aspirational, not guaranteed, so spending will change as the year goes on
  - Ray Hamm – *perhaps at the end of the year, share the pain, not just cutting Church Conference funding*
  - Current signing authority is Norma Thiessen, Marge Friesen, Sandra Klassen, Loren Braul
  - feel free to contact Loren Braul or Norma Thiessen if you wish more clarification
- Moved adoption of 2020 reports - Norma Thiessen, seconded by Elaine Loewen CARRIED

## 8.2 2021 Budget Proposal

- changed/simplified format in this year's proposal
- based on last year's spending
- the corrected proposed budget was emailed to everyone

- the change (not in book), to put the \$4000 into the sabbatical fund which didn't get put in last year as per Leadership Council's suggestion
- not a lot of leeway, we meet our expenses every year, but don't meet the budget, a mystery.
- *Marilyn Houser Hamm – refrain from using categories local and distant – all categories are "we"*

### 8.3 Budget Vote

- Moved budget be adopted: Norma Thiessen, seconded by Ray Hamm – CARRIED

### 9.0 Community Connections Church

#### 9.1 Mennonite Collegiate Institute

- Lloyd Wiebe – enrollment has increased 30% from last year. Keeping students healthy and school open has been possible. Finished the in the black as giving was up.

A Grow project using 80 - 160 acres (similar to Food Grains project) is being planned.

- grateful for the support AMC gives MCI

#### 9.2 Gardens on Tents

- John Gerbrandt – financially doing well, occupancy mostly full
- Rudy Franz has stepped down as chaplain, so area ministerial has resumed search

#### 9.3 Mennonite Central Committee – Manitoba

#### 9.4 Eden Health Care Services – see edenhealthcare.ca (Menu, About, Our performance)

#### 9.5 Abundance Canada – see abundance.ca (Menu, About, Annual report)

#### 9.6 Youth For Christ – The Station - see their Facebook page, send them a message

#### 9.7 Rhineland Food Bank

- interesting to work there. It is different. Schools and Businesses have gathered food, students have come in to help organize the food and put on shelves

### 10. Altona Mennonite Church in the mirror

#### 10.1 2020 Year at a Glance

#### 10.2 AMC statistical report

### 11. Nominations and Elections

#### 11.1 Cumulative Position Listing

#### 11.2 Nominations and Elections

- Loren Braul will continue as moderator
- Norma Thiessen will continue as treasurer unless anyone else wants to try
- Dave & Hildie Regehr will serve as deacons, the continuity on Spiritual Advisory will be good
- Thank you to June Schwartz for her 20 years on Council in various capacities
- Moved to accept slate - Norma Thiessen, seconded by Marlene Plett - CARRIED

### 12 Other Business – none

- Lori H. will check membership of Braul/Dueck (missing some paperwork) on stat page

### 13 Moved that meeting be adjourned John Gerbrandt, seconded by Marilyn Houser Hamm, CARRIED

### 14. Adjournment at 3:01 pm

Minutes submitted by Lori Hiebert

(Minutes taken during the Zoom meeting, and checked while listening to the recorded meeting.)