

Victoria First Church of the Nazarene Board Meeting Minutes for April 18th, 2017

Members present: Pastor Gary Bennett, Steve Prendergast, Pastor Calvin Black, Jen MacDougall, Mary Ann Timmins, Lorna Sainsbury, Lois Black, Liza Mueller, Sarah McClure, Maisey Wickett, Jordan Letcher, Arnie Seibel, Pastor Heather Prendergast

Members absent: Rick Tiede, Al Anderson, Sheri Eisenhuth (recording secretary)

1. The meeting opened with Kevin Seibel bringing the devotions. He spoke on the Lord leading us by His strong right arm. Kevin challenged us to consider loosening our “tent pegs” in order to achieve dreams and possibilities which seem improbable at this point. Kevin read a prayer to conclude.
2. **A motion was given, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the February 7th, 2017, board meeting as distributed.**
3. Reports and business arising from the committees:
 - a. Pastor Gary Bennett, senior pastor, gave a verbal report highlighting the Lent season, which commenced with Ash Wednesday’s evening service, and culminated with the Holy Week services including the Good Friday Rally at Parkes’ Arena, and our Easter Sunday services on April 16th. He expressed appreciation to Pastor Calvin and Rev. Ron Corcoran for their contributions to the services, along with appreciation expressed for the worship leaders and musicians who all contributed to the meaningful and reflective season.
 - b. Pastor Calvin Black, associate pastor, gave a verbal report concerning the cooperative and successful partnership among the youth pastors and churches in the region, as they shared responsibilities, venues, and costs for hosting special guest Brett Ullman in March. Brett spoke on several occasions to youth groups and parents throughout the region.
 - c. Neither Mary Ann Timmins nor Heather Prendergast presented a report.
 - d. NMI - Lois Black announced the upcoming *Faith Promise Weekend* with special guest speakers, Dr. Andy and Judy Bennett, medical missionaries to Papua New Guinea. Attendance at the banquet is anticipated to exceed 60 people.
 - e. Buildings and Grounds - Steve Prendergast, Liza Mueller, and Rick Tiede. Steve indicated the committee has recently discussed the need to replace the back fence, entering in discussions with Andi Lenzen, a contractor working for Gordie Dodd. Anticipated material costs for the wooden panel fencing is estimated at \$10K. The neighbors would be responsible to pay for the installation costs. The committee had also received a quote for about the same amount to install a chain-link fence across the entire 500 feet length of the back property line. Negotiations will continue. Also, the committee will investigate reported water damage on the upper floor of the parsonage. Liza announced that a work bee will be held in June. Steve verified that the back parking lot lighting was upgraded.
 - f. Worship - Jordan Letcher gave no report.
 - g. Fellowship - Jen MacDougall and Maisey Wickett submitted a written report which is included in the Agenda packet.

- h. Outreach - Al Anderson and Arnie Seibel. Arnie reported 14 volunteers helped to serve supper at the Mustard Seed on the previous Saturday evening. The group served about 100 people from a broad spectrum of ages.
- i. Discipleship - Lorna Sainsbury and Sarah McClure no report given.
- j. Administration and Finance - Kevin Seibel
 - i. Kevin read the *Notes to the Church Board--April 2017* from the committee indicating our operations budget at the end of March stands at \$49,591, with one more month before the close of the fiscal year. The written report was distributed with the Agenda packet.
 - ii. The Statement of Income & Expenses ending March 31, 2017, prepared by Douglas Jackson was distributed and reviewed. **A motion was given, seconded and carried to receive the report as given.**
 - iii. Kevin indicated the Annual Budget Proposal for 2017 - 2018 Church Fiscal Year, as included in the packet. He noted the budget was a balanced budget. **A motion was given and seconded to adopt the proposed budget for the coming Church year.** Discussion took place to clarify the content and amounts of some categories, resulting in minor shifts of category names and funds, but no changes impacting the major categories amounts as written. **The motion was carried.** Pastor Gary thanked Kevin and Douglas for their work.
- k. No Sanctuary Youth Centre update was received at this time.

4. New Business:

General Business

The April and May calendars were distributed in the Agenda packet. Pastor Gary highlighted the Annual General Meeting on May 16th, during which all committees will need to give a report. Pastor Heather asked that all reports be handed in to the church office by May 10th for publication for the AGM. Voting for the following positions will take place during the Sunday service on May 7th, and if necessary a runoff election on Sunday, May 14th: five church board assignments, the NMI President, the NMI Council members, delegates to the District Assembly, and the NMI convention delegates. The District Assembly will be held on Friday evening, June 2nd, and all day Saturday, June 3rd at Abbotsford Church of the Nazarene. Conventions will be held Friday afternoon, June 2nd. (NOTE: The Nominations Committee met earlier in the evening.)

- i. A letter was received and distributed with the Agenda packet from *Wounded Healers Ministries's Board Chair*, Brett Cane, to thank our church board members for the generous contribution to the conference expenses, the prayer support, and ongoing administrative support offered for this ministry.
- ii. Pastor Gary announced the intended combined Victoria Regional Church service to be held at the legislature, Sunday morning, July 2nd, at 11:00 am. **A motion was made, seconded and carried for our church to participate in this event.** This means we will not hold a service at our facilities that day, nor will we receive an offering that Sunday. Liza asked as to the number of churches involved in this event. The invitation has been extended to many churches by *Leading Influences Ministries*. Many congregations will need to receive approval from their governing boards and have thus not committed to the event. However, there was favorable response from the crowd gathered at the Good Friday service at Pearkes' Arena when Jason Goertzen made the

announcement. Apparently, during Canada's centennial year (1967) a like gathering assembled at the Memorial Centre.

- iii. Pastor Gary reported a request from the Seventh Day Adventist Church which owns the property at the corner of Quadra Street and Chatterton Way. This congregation is anticipating selling their present property on Pandora and building on the property near us. They are requesting further discussions to determine the feasibility and arrangements for their congregation to meet in our facility Saturdays from 9:00 am to about 1:00 pm. This would commence in about one year, when they vacate their downtown property, and last for the construction period, approximately one year.

Several board members indicated reservations and concerns, which were discussed, but also acknowledged this may be a good opportunity to bless and partner with another congregation. **The board members decided by consensus to continue discussions with them at this time. Mary Ann Timmins, Liza Mueller, Maisy Wickett (or another Fellowship committee member) and Steve Prendergast would like to form a subcommittee group to further investigate this partnership and to enter in the conversations with the SDA representatives.**

- iv. Kevin distributed a separate report titled, *Sabbatical Proposal for Gary Bennett, Senior Pastor*. He read the report, which proposes that Pastor Gary be given a three-month Sabbatical commencing in August. Pastor Gary gave additional information regarding Cheryl's future plans and the anticipated renewed energy and opportunity for ministry for both Cheryl and Gary. The board asked Pastor Gary to leave for the remainder of the discussion. Members discussed the concerns and benefits of a sabbatical, the impacts on staff responsibilities and the preaching schedule. The other pastors indicated they had been considering the sabbatical implications for several months and have devised some strategies to manage the workload. Altogether the staff and board members expressed positive feedback and support. **A motion was made and seconded to give Pastor Gary Bennett a three month Sabbatical during August, September, and October 2017 for the intent of rest and renewal as per the description noted in the proposal. The motion was carried.** Kevin indicated there would be some impact on the proposed budget. It was also suggested that a love offering could be taken to help offset any travel expenses the Bennetts may incur during the Sabbatical. The A&F committee will report back to the new church board in June.

5. At 9:16 pm, Steve closed the meeting with prayer, offering blessings for Gary and Cheryl, and supplications for Wayne Wickett, Denise Wellburn, who will be in surgery Wednesday, and for Sheri Eisenhuth, who was discharged from the hospital earlier in the day.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Prendergast, recording secretary in lieu of Sheri Eisenhuth.