

Minutes of the Board Meeting
Victoria First Church of the Nazarene
September 12th, 2017

Present: Pastor Calvin Black, Mary Ann Timmins
Al Anderson, Robert Hughes, Kwok-Ying Jackson, Sarah McClure,
Liza Mueller, Lorna Sainsbury, Kevin Seibel, Arnie Seibel, Maisy
Wickett, Eric Yue

Absent: Pastor Gary Bennett (Sabbatical), Pastor Heather Prendergast,
Amanda Carlos, Steve Prendergast, Rick Tiede,

I. Devotions and Prayer

A. Eric Yue led the Board in Devotions and prayer.

II. MSC Adoption of the minutes of the August 8th meeting.

III. Reports and Business Arising from the Committees.

A. Senior Pastor - Pastor Gary Bennett (Sabbatical)

B. Associate Pastor - Calvin Black

1. Written report

C. Associate Pastor - Mary Ann Timmins

1. Summer Programs. Jordan and Dawit completed their internships at the end of August. Sylvia Seibel will be taking on new responsibilities now that Alison has left. She brings her gifts and talents to the team. We plan to have a time of appreciation for Alison Hill on Sunday, September 24th. She will continue to attend the church and volunteer with Children's moment, and other Sunday morning supports.

2. Sunday School. We have the classes 95% covered. There is still a need for a third person to help in some classrooms.

3. BUGS, SLUGS and TEEN Bible study. Lorna and Mary Ann will work with the teen girls, studying Ann Voskamp's "1000 gifts". Calvin and Kevin will work with the teen boys. They will study the book of James. The program begins on Wednesday, September 13th. The goal is to delve deeper into the Word of God and build relationships with the teens.

4. Church Family Event. We hope to have a gathering of the entire Church family once per month. The first one will be Friday, October 6th. It is hoped that people will come forward to volunteer to organize it.

5. Scholarships. \$12,000.00 in scholarship funding was given out, with 14 people receiving scholarships. Several of the pastoral staff met with and talked to students who have applied for the scholarship. They were each sent a letter advising of their scholarship funding. The letter included clarification regarding eligibility guidelines for those applying in their second and third year. It is hoped that they are endeavouring to be the Handprint of God in the community by becoming involved in a local church ministry. For example we have some students supporting Heston on Sundays, others are involved in teaching Sunday school or playing on a worship team. Mary Ann would like to propose that further funds be added to the bursary

account. In the future we would like to have a Bible study for our students as well as opportunities for them to have fellowship. At present, they attend church here, and then meet with other young adults at Lambrick, Adore, or Emmanuel. These churches provide meals for young adults.

6. Marissa Lentz. Marissa will be leaving for a two year assignment with YWAM - Mazatlan on September 16th. She will be back for a short visit in December. Board members were given the opportunity to sign a card for her.

D. Executive Pastor - Heather Prendergast

1. Written report.

E. NMI – Amanda Carlos - absent

1. Alabaster offering. Sunday, September 17th, 2017.

F. Buildings & Grounds – Rick Tiede, Robert Hughes, Steve Prendergast, Liza Mueller - written report

G. Worship – Eric Yue

1. Fall Planning. The Worship schedule for September to December is now complete.

2. Power Point. Sam Follis is training on power point and doing a great job.

3. Worship. Calvin commented that the vibrancy of worship comes from us as we resonate being in tune with and giving glory to God.

H. Fellowship - Kwok-Ying Jackson, Maisy Wickett

1. Written report.

I. Outreach. Al Anderson - Arnie Seibel - written report

1. Mustard Seed Agape Dinners. Music is needed for the dinners. The meals are going very well, with opportunities to make contacts with the clients.

2. Family Breakfast. The committee would like to host a family breakfast for the community on October 14th. Please send ideas for a featured speaker or topic to Arnie or Al. Last time Dell spoke about the Warehouse.

J. Discipleship - Sarah McClure, Lorna Sainsbury

1. CONNECT Sunday. Sarah and Lorna will be encouraging Bible study and other group leaders to prepare an information table for the Fireside room after church on Sunday, September 17th. This will provide an opportunity for members of the congregation to explore all the ways to connect. The fellowship committee will provide food for that day. Lorna thanked the Fellowship committee for their support. A note will be included in the Church news to all Bible study and ministry leaders to prepare a poster and be present on Sunday in the Fireside room. Pastor Calvin will be preaching on "Experiencing Community" this Sunday.

2. Bible study of Revelation. Al reported that the Sunday morning Bible study has grown from four people to sixteen. They may need to find a larger space.

K. Administration and Finance - Kevin Seibel

MSC that the August reports be accepted as presented.

1. **Debit machine.** Kevin is encouraged by the increased use of the debit machine for offerings on Sunday mornings.

L. Sanctuary Youth Centre. - written report

1. **Darin Reimer.** Pastor Calvin encouraged Board members to pray for Darin and the Sanctuary Youth Centre.

VI. New Business

A. General Business

1. **Calendars.** September and October calendars were reviewed.

Highlights: CONNECT SUNDAY on September 17th, 2017

2. **Other Business - Letter from Garry Preston**

a. **History.** Pastor Calvin reviewed the email letter that was received from Garry Preston and gave a summary of the communications that have taken place since then. The key topic was the need to establish a formal policy for the use and publishing of photographs. Board members were given an opportunity to ask questions and provide input. Pastor Calvin has reviewed examples of Social Media policies that are in place with other churches. For the past fifteen years, our summer camps have included a "photo release" portion on the registration form. Some parents do not wish their children's photographs to be published on the internet.

For Sunday school, pictures of the children are kept in a binder in the Church office. We endeavour to keep our children safe, including making sure the Sunday school doors are locked.

b. **Church website.** The website expired during the first week of August. It was re-launched with a new format, which included a password protected area for Church family. Photographs are now under that protected area. Liability still rests upon the church if children's photographs are on the web without parental permission.

MSC that the church board and pastoral staff strike a committee to produce a "Social Media Policy"

c. **Church Board minutes.** Due to the fact that the website was being re-launched, the August Church Board minutes were not on the website. However, any church member may request a copy of a report at any time. Calvin read an email from Rick Tiede regarding Church Board minutes. Further discussion about the need for written reports was included, with all Board members given the opportunity to clarify the topic. As a general rule, Pastor Gary who is the Chairman of the Board has not required written reports. Committees are encouraged to do so when it is possible. Pastor Calvin clarified the fact that the Church Pastoral staff are accountable to the Church Board, with the understanding that the staff makes decisions on the day to day operations of the church. Eric Yue commented that he would like to see the staff be empowered to make decisions and expressed his confidence in their ability to do so.

MSC Garry Preston's request for written reports has been reviewed by the Church Board and in view of the fact that Gary Bennett has never required written reports from the Church staff and as we do trust the staff, we will table this issue until Gary

Bennett and the all of the Pastoral staff are present at the November Board meeting.

4. Follow-up. Pastor Calvin will contact Garry Preston by phone to give him a summary of the proceedings of the meeting. With regard to the Social Media Policy, Garry will be asked to wait until a policy is in place for further direction. A follow-up letter (with input from Church Board members) will be sent on behalf of the Church Board.

Members of the Social Media Policy Committee: Kevin Seibel, Liza Mueller, Lorna Sainsbury.

II. Adjournment and Prayer. Kevin Seibel closed in prayer at 9:47 p.m.

Next Board meeting: 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 10th, 2017

Devotions: Maisy Wickett

Recorded by: Sheri Eisenhuth, Office Administrator