

**FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
FALL CONGREGATIONAL FORUM  
NOVEMBER 2, 2014**

**I. ATTENDANCE:** Approximately 50 persons

**II. CALL TO ORDER:** Moderator Melinda Carlson @ 11:40 am

**III. DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER:** Led by Melinda Carlson.

**IV. AGENDA:** The proposed agenda was accepted as presented in the Forum Booklet

**V. MINUTES:** The minutes for the Forum of April 6, 2014 were approved as presented.

**VI. AFFIRMATION OF SLATE:**

A. Copies of the proposed slate of members called to serve were presented by Moderator Carlson.

B. The names of Edwin and Arlene Martin were added to the slate as Deacons to be affirmed for a 3 year term.

C. Melinda Carlson expressed concern that there was no one willing to serve as Chair of the Education Ministry. She also noted that if persons were not able to serve they should refuse with kindness toward the requesting person.

After a motion by Mike Baldwin and second by Julie Poland, the entire slate as printed in the booklet and with the additions noted herein was approved without dissent.

**VII. CONSTITUTIONAL REVISIONS:**

Roy Rollman presented the first reading of proposed changes to the constitution which will clarify the responsibility of the Gifts Discernment and Leadership Teams to call persons for ministries in the church.

**VIII. BUDGET FOR 2015:**

Sheryl Leaman presented the 2015 proposed Financial Plan as printed in the FORUM booklet. Highlighted Items noted by Sheryl included:

A. Utility costs are anticipated to increase by about 12 percent.

B. Salaries are increased by 2 percent.

C. Youth/Young Adult position retained in the budget, although presently vacant.

D. The deficit projected for 2015 is \$ 6,175.

E. Projected income for 2015 is \$ 322,680.

F. Sheryl noted a decrease in “interest/dividend” revenue was the result of the fact that actual interest rates for our money market funds did not match what was anticipated for 2014.

Sheryl moved that the 2015 budget be approved as presented in the FORUM booklet. After noting the recommended approval from the Leadership Team, the

2015 budget was approved by the FORUM without dissent.

**IX. VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT:**

The Forum approved (on motion by Anita Jacobs, second by Frank Leaman and without dissent) revised Vision and Mission statements for 1<sup>st</sup> Church. The revised statements are:

Vision - To become a community of committed Christians who Love God, Share Christ, and Serve the world.

Mission - People dedicated to Spiritual Growth, Loving Relationship, and Sacrificial Service.

**X. REPORTS:**

A. Bernetta Kile corrected her report on the Brethren Hymnal Query to state that we are “requesting a new publication rather than an upgrade to the current hymnal”.

B. Melinda Carlson reported that the Gifts Discernment Team had worked very hard to secure persons to fill all vacancies on the Affirmation Slate.

C. After the aforementioned additions, all the “Team Reports” were approved as they are printed in the Forum booklet. This action taken on a motion by Patricia Carey seconded by Elizabeth Eisenhart and approved without dissent.

D. Treasurer’s Report by Sheryl Leaman

Sheryl reviewed her report as printed in the booklet.

In response to a question relative to the balance shown for “Estates/Bequests” funds, Sheryl stated these monies had been used by the Facility Care Team for the recently completed improvements to the church building and by the Witness Team as reported in the FORUM booklet. The overall distribution from this fund is 50% to church improvements and 50% witness ministries.

E. Youth Director - Pastor Don

A search committee is being formed to search for a part-time youth director.

F. The Treasure’s Report and Youth Director action were approved, on a motion by Bill Jacobs with a second by Roy Rollman and without objection by the FORUM.

**XI. OLD BUSINESS - NONE**

**XII. NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Bernetta Kile presented the Query on publication of a new Brethren Hymnal as printed and included in the FORUM booklet. The Leadership Team recommended that the FORUM approve the query and forward it to the District Office for action. On a voice vote, a clear majority of FORUM members approved this recommendation with

only minor opposition.

B. Bernetta Kile advised the FORUM that a workshop/retreat on church leadership is scheduled for the morning of January 24, 2015 at the church. All members are invited to attend this event which will be led by Dr. William Waugh, District Executive. A snow date is scheduled for January 31, 2015.

C. Pastor Don noted that Dr. Waugh will be preaching at First Church on December 14, 2014.

D. Galen Trimmer asked if any recognition has been planned for Charlie Murr, our retired Facility Administrator. Melinda Carlson stated that no recognition has yet been planned.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

The FORUM was closed with prayer led by Pastor Don at 12:32 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Church Clerk  
Arden Kile

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