

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2023, CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING

Present: Pastor Christine Olson; President Matt Vanni; Vice-President Terrie Porras; Secretary Joanna Magrane; Treasurer Debbie Villas; Jim Briar; Stacy Hansen; Jeff Hines; Betty Kohrt; Chris Nelson; Cindy Smith; Bill Taccolini Excused
Late Arrival: Gail Sieglaff Excused: Jeremy Sallgren Present to Report: Patti Treptow

Call to Order: Matt called the meeting to order at 6:01

Opening Devotion: Pastor Christine led the Council in a reading and discussion of The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-16) in accordance with a Synod directive entitled "Dwelling in the Word". Thereafter, at Matt's suggestion, the Council temporarily adjourned to the sanctuary to be blessed at the baptismal font.

Agenda Approval: Matt called for review and approval of the Agenda. Bill made a MOTION to approve the Agenda, SECONDED by Chris, MOTION CARRIED.

Secretary's Report: Matt called for review and approval of the Minutes of the August 8th, 2023, meeting. A typo in the spelling of Chris' name was brought to Joanna's attention, after which Stacy made a MOTION to approve the Minutes as corrected, SECONDED by Bill, MOTION CARRIED. Joanna read a thank you letter from Pastor and Marilyn Schoen.

Treasurer's/Finance Committee Report: Debbie reviewed the Financial Reports, noting that, as of September 1st, the \$200,000 Mission Investment Fund had earned quarterly interest in the amount of \$2,523.07.

ACTION ITEMS: OLD BUSINESS

Meatball Supper: An update was given on plans for the meatball supper to be held on Thursday, October 26th. Barb Stankevitz is coordinating the event. Glen and Joanna Magrane will apply for a Thrivent Action Team grant to use toward food and supplies.

God's Work Our Hands: Volunteers assembled 23 infant & toddler hygiene kits on September 10th. Cindy and Betty delivered 10 to Rainbow House and reported that they were very grateful to receive them. Pastor Christine will contact Abundant Life to see if they have a need for the remaining 13.

AED/CPR Training: Matt reported that there was an excellent turnout for the recent training, including a few non-members seeking certification. It was noted that our AED unit needs to be registered and the pads had expired. Matt has obtained new pads at no cost and has purchased a new battery for future use. He will follow up on registering the unit.

CASA Picnic: Stacy reported that attendance was much lower than anticipated at the picnic, resulting in a substantial amount of excess food which she delivered to Abundant Life homeless shelter. Some of the cash donation overage was used toward the purchase of groceries for a needy community resident. Stacy will follow up with CASA to see if they have use for the remaining \$74.

Rally Day: Terrie reported that the Fellowship Committee has made plans for the Rally Day picnic, which will be at Henes Park on September 17th. The committee is planning to serve 100 people. Disposable packets will be used for Communion.

501 Status: In following up regarding concerns about our 501 status being jeopardized by scholarship checks made out to recipients only (vs. both the recipient and college), Jeff spoke with both the Synod and a CPA and was assured that there would not be an issue. However, the CPA did recommend that future checks be made out to both, and pointed out that the donor may not serve on the scholarship selection committee.

REPORTS

Youth & Family Ministry Director's Report: Patti presented her report as written, noting one correction regarding yoga, which will begin on October 3, 2023, not September 12th.

President's Report: Matt thanked the Council for the card and support he received following his recent surgery, and for their volunteer efforts during his recovery.

Youth Committee (Little Lutherans): Stacy reported that the committee met on August 29th and discussed Rally Day and future plans. The next meeting will be held on October 27th.

Learning Committee: Bill reported that the committee met on August 22nd. There are 32 Sunday School students anticipated. The third graders will receive Bibles on October 8th and confirmation classes will begin October 22nd. The Christmas

program will be held December 17th at the 10:00 service. VBS will be open to the community next summer.

Pastor Christine noted that there have been two new Sunday School registrations this week, and there will be four baptisms in October. Bible studies are going well.

Endowment Committee: (Jeff) Did not meet.

Fellowship Committee: The committee has met twice recently to plan the first Bunco Night, Rally Day, and other upcoming events. The second Bunco Night will be held on November 9th. At Pastor Christine's request, the Fellowship Committee will host a lunch during confirmation rehearsal on October 15th for confirmands and their families.

Human Resources Committee: Deb reported that the committee met recently. A representative from Council is needed to serve on the committee. Joanna volunteered to act as council representative. Terrie made a MOTION to select Joanna as the Human Resources Committee representative, SECONDED by Chris, MOTION CARRIED.

Memorial Committee: Cindy reported that the committee will meet on September 28th.

Outreach Committee: Terrie reported that the committee will meet on September 19th to plan yearly activities.

Policy and Procedure Committee: Did not meet; Pastor Christine will be joining this committee and can report to Council.

Property: Did not meet; Matt reported that they are working on snow removal bids. Also, he's found someone who has done work at other area churches who may be able to do the tuckpointing on the chimney brickwork.

Stewardship Committee: Chris reported that the committee met on August 28th. In consultation with Pastor Christine, the slogan "Grateful Hearts" has been chosen for the 2023 stewardship campaign. The revised stewardship campaign calendar is as follows: letters will be sent the week of 10/4; kickoff on 10/8; committee sign-up on 10/15; packet distribution on 10/22; Commitment Sunday on 11/12; Celebration Sunday on 11/19.

Worship Committee: (Chris) Did not meet.

Vision Team: The next Faithful Innovations (Vision Team) training will be September 23rd at Fortune Lake. Updates will be in the Messenger. On a recent neighborhood walk, the team focused on noticing details that may provide insight into our neighborhood and community.

Visitation Team: The team, comprised of 14 adult and 2 youth members, has had an organizational meeting. They will meet next on September 26th. Pastor Christine has ordered books for each member/household.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Christine presented her report as written.

ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

Human Resources Rep: See Human Resources Committee report above.

2024 Council Officers: Current Council members were asked to begin contemplating whether they are willing to serve as an officer next year. Names of potential new members/officers should be given to Pastor Christine or a member of the Nominating Committee.

Choir: Given the recent resignation of Choir Director Linda Davis and shrinking choir membership, Council discussed whether to seek a new director, and perhaps modify the current rehearsal/performance schedule to encourage greater participation, or discontinue choir for the time being. As Chris noted, a sign-up sheet for choir is typically included as part of the stewardship campaign.

Sign of the Peace: Pastor Christine informed Council that she will discontinue passing the peace with a handshake during cold & flu season.

ADJOURNMENT

Chris made a MOTION to adjourn, SECONDED by Gail, MOTION CARRIED. The meeting concluded at 8:30 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Magrane, Council Secretary

