

Minutes of the November 11, 2021 Congregation Council Meeting

Present: Pastor Mark Laatsch, Ronda Pedersen, Matt Vanni, Terrie Porras, Bill Taccolini, Jeremy Salgren, Jim Briar, Linda Davis, Betty Kohrt, James Porras, Laura Magrane.

Excused: Jeff Hines, Stacy Hansen, Boni Nerat-Heckel.

Present to Report: Treasurer Debbie Villas, Patti Treptow, Judy Raygo.

President Ronda called meeting to order at 6:10pm and called for a review and approval of the agenda. Bill motioned to approve, Matt seconded, motion carried. Ronda announced Bonnie Nerat-Heckel submitted her resignation from council to Pastor Mark stating due to family needs she needed to step down. After discussion, Matt **motioned** to ask the Nominating Committee for a replacement recommendation, Jeremy seconded, motion carried.

Opening Devotion: Pastor Mark read from First Corinthians, chapter 12 and “At the Table” by Bishop Eaton from Living Lutheran.

Secretary’s Report: Terrie presented minutes of the October 12, 2021 meeting for review and approval. Matt motioned to approve, Betty seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer’s & Finance Committee Report: Debbie reported: 1. Reviewed financial reports. 2. Working on 2022 Budget with Finance Committee. Meeting 11/30 to finalize numbers, will present proposed budget to Council next month. 3. Discussed Swanson Estate. Jeremy **motioned** to cash check and wire money for deposit into the ELCA Mission Investment fund, Linda seconded, motion carried. Will continue to look at investment opportunities for this monetary gift.

ACTION ITEMS

Old Business – where we’ve been.

Coffee Fellowship – Ronda reported: 1. Average attendance of 20. 2. Fellowship will take responsibility to maintain inventory. 3. Terrie made Host Sign-Up sheet, passed it around for members to sign up. 4. James reported on wholesale priced coffee through Cousins Subs. Regular is \$39.93/case of 42 pkts (12cups/pkt). Decaf is \$56.90/case of 80 pkts (12cups/pkt). Creamers: Half & Half is \$18.12/case of 360 cups, French Vanilla is \$20.30/case of 288 cups. 5. Pastor will talk with AA regarding table placement after their meeting so we do not have to move tables back every Sunday morning. 6. Discussed possible purchase of 2nd Keurig for kitchen (existing Keurig is used in friendship room).

Bulletin Sponsorship – Ronda reported: 1. Need to print new sponsorship bulletin inserts. Scott Nerat printed previous inserts. Can recycle; put inserts into a box, let sit 2 weeks, then reuse. Will contact previous businesses sponsors to assure them we will honor sponsorship previously paid for. Will advertise in the Messenger for new sponsors. First need to define who will head up/work on this project.

Reports – where we are.

Youth Advisory Council: Laura reported 9 GLOW Youth members met last night for a bon fire, then moved inside to plan future activities. They will meet mid-Dec. for a Christmas party including a white elephant gift exchange.

Youth & Family Ministry Director: Patti presented her report as written and highlighted the upcoming bookmark activity.

President’s Report: 1. Ronda shared it had been Pastor Appreciation month and thanked Pastor Mark for all he does as our congregation pastor and for his support of her during her presidency. 2. 70 cards for residents and 4 gift baskets for nursing were delivered to Luther Home and much appreciated by the staff and residents. Asked Terrie to write a thank you to our members and publish in the Messenger. 3. Christmas event “Hanging of the Greens” will be held this year. 4. Reminded members that her term is ending and we will need to elect a new President. Please pray and consider serving in this role.

Youth: Patti reported parents and kids will be making book marks for Elderly Services.

Learning: Bill reported they have not met.

Endowment: Pastor reported they met 10/13. See new business.

Fellowship: Ronda reported: 1. They are working on Thanksgiving eve pie social (to follow 6pm service). Pie donation sign-up sheet in the narthex. 2. Hanging of the Greens will be on 12/5 after 10 a.m. service. Confirmation students will help after their class end, around 12:30. Pizza and drinks will be provided. Will publish event in The Messenger.

Human Resources: Pastor reported they have not met.

Memorial: Pastor reported they meet next Tue.

Outreach: Terrie reported: 1. Trunk or Treat was a success with 8 trunks and approximately 400 kids attending. 2. Setting up in Narthex for Christmas Food and Cleaning Supplies Drive, to run 12/5-12/19. Donations will help Haven of Hope, Rainbow House, local food pantries, and others in our community who are in need and reach out to us. 3. Setting up The Tree of Love on Sun. 11/28. Gift donations go to Rainbow House families. Will purchase gift cards for Haven of Hope residents. 3. Will bake with confirmation students Sat. 12/11 and help with bake sale Sunday, 12/12. Bonnie Jackson wrote for and received a Thrivent Grant which will cover 100% of the cost for the bake sale. Money raised will fund other Outreach activities. 4. Bell Ringing for Salvation Army on Sat. 12/4 from 12-2pm at Jack's Menominee.

Policy & Procedure (P&P): Pastor reported they met 10/12. See New Business.

Property: Matt reported they met last Thursday. 1. 13th Street entry stairs are cracked, plan to repair next spring. 2. Getting new carpet quotes for 14th street entry stairs, plan to install next spring. 3. Gutters not done, contractor behind schedule. Working to reschedule. 4. Front bushes trimmed, one removed. 5. Jeremy reported on front mosaic window repairs. Contractor used down to inspect, gave bid. After discussion, Linda **motioned** to accept Leo Barker bid to do maintenance work on 2 windows, not to exceed the cost of \$1,000.00, seconded by Bill, motion carried. James asked if lead windows are covered (protected) with plexiglass. Jeremy will look into this. 6. Have not been able to find anyone to do sidewalk snow removal. Will put article in the Messenger to ask congregation for recommendations.

Stewardship: Pastor reported they are rapping up Stewardship campaign. Next Sun. is commitment Sunday, following Sun. is celebration Sunday. Have received 40 pledges back already.

Worship: Pastor reported they meet next Tue. Have a big slate of activities to address with Christmas coming up.

Pastor's Report: Pastor reported 1. He continues to watch the COVID-19 infection rate closely and will keep current precautions in place. 2. He had some difficulties streaming the Sunday worship service. 3. Moved Confirmation service to 1pm, Sun. 10/31, to support social distancing. Read the names of those who will be confirmed. **Motion** to approve the 14 confirmands made by Stacy, seconded by Matt, motion carried.

New Business – where we are going

Audit Committee Description of Duties – 9th draft emailed to council for review. After discussion, Matt motioned to approve policy as written, Bill seconded, motion carried.

Credit Card Policy and Procedure – 2nd draft emailed to council for review. After discussion, Matt motioned to approve policy as written, Jeremy seconded, motion carried.

2021 Endowment Committee Distributions – Pastor Mark reported. See attached Mission Endowment Fund Meeting, October 13, 2021.

Long Term Project/Goals – See old business, Coffee Fellowship

President Ronda adjourned the meeting at 8:25pm on a **motion** by Linda, seconded by Betty, motion carried. Pastor Mark closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terrie Porras, Council Secretary