

Minutes of the December 14, 2021 Congregation Council Meeting

Present: Pastor Mark Laatsch, Ronda Pedersen, Matt Vanni, Terrie Porras, Bill Taccolini, Jeff Hines, Jeremy Sallgren, Linda Davis, Stacy Hansen, Betty Kohrt, James Porras, Laura Magrane.

Excused: Jim Briar

Present to Report: Treasurer Debbie Villas, Patti Treptow

We gathered at 6pm in the fellowship hall for a Christmas Potluck. A good time was had by all.

President Ronda called meeting to order at 6:40pm and called for a review and approval of the agenda. Bill motioned to approve, Matt seconded, motion carried.

Opening Devotion: Pastor Mark read from John 1:10-14 and "A Restless Advent Night: from the book "Sent". The author found that each person's uniqueness is statistically improbable, therefore concluded your life is a miracle. Likewise, the life of Jesus was no accident, it was a miracle.

Secretary's Report: Terrie presented minutes of the November 11, 2021 meeting for review and approval. Debbie noted that Keith Plude had printed the sponsorship bulletin inserts. After discussion, it was agreed that Keith printed the first batch, and Scott Nerat printed the second batch. Matt motioned to approve the minutes with this correction, Betty seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer's & Finance Committee report: Debbie reported: 1. Reviewed financial reports and commented the Finance Committee feels Finances are not bad. There is a budget deficit but we will be able to cover this from general checking. 2. The Swanson monetary gift has been successfully deposited into the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. Bruce Peters (Finance Committee member) is looking into other investment opportunities for this fund. 3. Presented 2022 Fiscal Budget as recommended by the Finance Committee. After discussion, Bill motioned to approve staff raises as recommended, Linda seconded, motion carried. Discussion then turned to bonuses. After much discussion, Jeff motioned to approved bonuses as follows: Pastor \$500; Patti, Judy, & Debbie \$300; Lee & Carol Parrish \$200, Marcy Peters & Deb Lemery \$100. Stacy seconded the motion, motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

Old Business – where we've been.

Bulletin Sponsorship – Stacy will head this project, Ronda will help. Stacy will contact Judy for records of who paid for sponsorship last year as well as consult her own records. Council would like to resume this in Jan. if possible.

Reports – where we are.

Youth Advisory Council: Laura reported they met last week for a Christmas Party, played games and exchanged gifts. Meeting monthly going forward. Doing volunteer work organizing clothes at St Vincent DePaul in Marinette.

Youth & Family Ministry Director: Patti presented her report as written and highlighted the activities and community outreach being done this Christmas season.

President's Report: Ronda wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked all for contributing to the potluck. She expressed gratitude for the time and energy each member gives to participate on council. Positions are open for 2022, most importantly President, and she asked we prayerfully consider serving. Nominations and voting will occur at the Jan. meeting. The Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on January 30, 2022.

Youth: Stacy reported they met Saturday for the children's Christmas pageant practice followed by a party. They are planning a lot of new activities including sledding and an Easter egg hunt. Next meet Jan 16.

Learning: Bill reported they have not met.

Endowment: Pastor reported they have not met but endowment disbursement checks are made out and they will be writing letters and sending the checks out soon.

Fellowship: Ronda and Terrie reported: 1. Coffee Hour - Ordering coffee wholesale through James & Terrie (Cousins Subs). Need hosts, sign-up sheet passed around council, will place sign-up sheet on table next to sanctuary entrance. Rough draft on How to Host has been written, need to fine tune. Discussed location of coffee

hour, considering the option to hold first Sunday of each month in the Narthex. Asked Pastor to continue to announce in church; Coffee Hour time and location, where to sign up to help, instructions are provided, and the option to work with an experienced host. Will continue to advertise Coffee Hour in the bulletin and Messenger. 2. Annual Meeting – Will host a Coffee Hour in the Narthex following the meeting. 3. “Hanging of the Greens” went well with 10-15 helpers. They worked after church until 1:20pm. Sue Larson made tree skirts for alter trees. Human Resources: Pastor reported they have not met.

Memorial: Betty reported they purchased a Keurig for the kitchen. To be used to offer tea and hot chocolate to non-coffee drinkers. Purchased a Streaming Camera for improved Facebook viewing of our live church service. Will build a platform to hold the camera. Camera operation done remotely by Pastor using an application on his mobile phone. Marilyn Mouritsen donated two counter stools to our kitchen for use by volunteers when they gather around the kitchen island to plan events.

Outreach: Patty & Terrie reported: 1. Bake sale raised \$466 dollars even though we had to work around a snow storm! Pastor took cookie plates to our shut-in members as well. 2. Having a good response to our food and cleaning supply drive. Will be organizing and deliver to Haven of Hope, Rainbow House, community members in need, and Resurrection/St Vincent food pantry before Christmas. 3. Tree of Love gift tags all taken. Donated gifts and gift cards will be delivered to Haven of Hope individuals and Rainbow House families before Christmas.

Policy & Procedure (P&P): Pastor reported they will meet 12/14.

Property: Matt reported: 1. Minor repairs were made to the front outside mosaic window, however, the wood frame and concrete holding in the window are rotted and cracked. Window needs to be taken out, repaired, and reinstalled. Will get bid from Leo Barker. 2. 13th Street entrance stairs cracked and crumbling. Getting bids to repair next spring. 3. Facia/soffit work (gutter replacement in these areas) not completed and weather prohibitive to do work now. Matt will press contractor for firm commitment to do work next spring. 4. Getting bids for replacement of carpet in 14th street entrance, stairs to narthex and fellowship hall. Plan to replace in spring. 5. Plan summer clean up of storage areas. Sue Larson and Cookie Cramer volunteered to organize and spring clean Christmas decorations. 6. Betty reported that choir room door exit stairs are icy and it is also dark. Requested a motion light in this area. Matt will look into battery or solar powered lights. Council discussed and recommend making this an emergency exit only.

Stewardship: Jeff reported they have not met.

Worship: Pastor reported they met last month. “Hanging of the Greens”, organized with Fellowship Committee, was snowed out and rescheduled to following Sunday. Per Fellowship report, it went well. Poinsettia prices have gone up to \$14 each, charged \$15 each, received no complaints. Council agreed with this pricing. Will hold services at 4pm and 7pm Christmas Eve, 9am Christmas Day, all with Holy Communion. On 12/26 and 1/02 will have one 9am service.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor presented his report as written.

New Business – where we are going

Annual Meeting – Will be on Sunday, January 30, 2022. There will be one 9am service with meeting to start immediately following (approximately 9:45am) in the sanctuary. At the conclusion, a Coffee Fellowship with pastries will be held in the narthex.

Long Term Project/Goals – See Fellowship, Coffee Hour

President Ronda adjourned the meeting at 9:00pm on a **motion** by Linda, seconded by Betty, motion carried. Pastor Mark closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terrie Porras, Council Secretary