

## MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 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; Jeremy Sallgren; Gail Sieglaff; Cindy Smith; Bill Taccolini

Call to Order: Matt called the meeting to order at 6:15.

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

Opening Devotion: Pastor Christine led the Council in prayer.

Secretary's Report: Matt called for review and approval of the Minutes of the November 14, 2023, Council meeting. Stacy made a MOTION to approve the Minutes, SECONDED by Cindy, MOTION CARRIED.

Treasurer's/Finance Committee Report: Debbie reviewed the Financial Reports noting the transfer of \$7,500 from Dedicated Checking to General Checking to augment the declining General Checking balance. Debbie also noted that the Mission Investment Fund earned interest of \$224.98 and that Stewardship Drive pledges received to date are slightly higher than 2023.

Debbie submitted the Minutes of the November 14, 2023, Finance Committee meeting. A significant and steady post-COVID decline in loose offerings was noted. After discussion, Council decided to return to the former practice of passing the offering plates, effective immediately.

### **ACTION ITEMS: OLD BUSINESS**

Nominating Committee Update: Debbie reported that the Nominating Committee has met with Pastor Christine and will begin calling prospective nominees for open Council positions soon.

2024 Council Officers: After discussion, several Council members agreed to accept Officer positions for the coming year. Voting will take place at the January Council meeting.

### **REPORTS**

Youth & Family Ministry Director's Report: On behalf of Patti, Pastor Christine presented the December Youth & Family Ministry Report as written.

President's Report: Matt reflected on his years of service as President of Council and expressed his appreciation to the other members of Council.

Youth (Little Lutherans): Stacy reported that she and two others, with suggestions from the children, went grocery shopping for food items to be donated to three Menominee families in need. They purchased three large totes of food which were blessed during last Sunday's service. The Sunday School Christmas Program dress rehearsal and Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, with the performance on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, at the 10:00 service.

Learning: (Bill) Did not meet.

Endowment: (Jeff) Did not meet.

Fellowship: (Terrie) Met by text to discuss Bunco, which will be held on January 25<sup>th</sup>, and taking down the Christmas decorations.

Human Resources: (Joanna) Did not meet.

Memorial: (Cindy) Did not meet.

Outreach: (Joanna) The committee met to set up the Tree of Love and finalize plans for other December projects including the food drive, poinsettias and cards for shut-ins, and the bake sale.

Policy & Procedure: (Joanna) Did not meet.

Property: Jeremy reported that the basement furnace wasn't igniting and has been repaired. The final bill hasn't been received. Scott Gleisner is working on repairing the parking lot lights. The committee is working to ensure that Scott has a key and other necessary resources to keep the parking lot and sidewalks salted on Sunday mornings.

Stewardship: See Treasurer's/Finance Report re: Debbie's pledge update.

Worship: (Chris) The committee met and as noted by Pastor Christine "worship is happening"!

Visitation Team: Pastor Christine reported that the team met in November.

Vision Team (Faithful Innovations): (Pastor Christine) Did not meet.

Pastor's Report: Presented as written.

### **ACTION ITEMS (NEW BUSINESS):**

Draft 2024 Budget: Debbie distributed a proposed draft of the 2024 Budget for review and discussion. It will be updated with year-end figures and some adjustments before the January Council meeting, which will be held on the 16th. Debbie noted that the 5% interest earned on the \$200,000 Mission Investment Fund is typically deposited in the maintenance fund. She suggested that about 80% of the quarterly interest be allocated to the general fund instead. Stacy made a MOTION to approve the recommended interest allocation, SECONDED by Bill, MOTION CARRIED. Debbie also reported that staff/volunteer bonuses will be paid in December.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Gail made a MOTION to adjourn, SECONDED by Jeremy, MOTION CARRIED. The meeting concluded at 8:03 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Joanna Magrane, Council Secretary

