

## **Minutes of the September 12, 2017 Church Council Meeting**

Present: Cathy Hipke, Ronda Pedersen, Adam Starzynski, Gary Gustafson, Debbie Lemery, Mike Bellisle, Debbie Villas, Jim Zobel, Pastor Mark Laatsch

Excused: Randy Demeuse, Kathy Bero, Darrell Eland, Kyle Anderson

Present to Report: Patti Treptow, Judy Raygo

Debbie Villas called the meeting to order.

Pastor Mark announced that President Jackie Kolaszewski has tendered her resignation as President and member of the Church Council. He read a letter she wrote to the council members. Vice President Debbie Villas will move up into the vacant position of President. Pastor Mark will email the council members not in attendance to see if anyone is interested in filling the Vice President position until the end of the current term. Pastor Mark will also contact Dave Anderson to see if he is interested in filling the open position on the council until the end of the current term.

President Debbie Villas called for a review and approval of the agenda. Discussion on the AARP Tax Aid program was added as old business. Debbie Lemery made a motion to accept the agenda as amended, Mike Bellisle seconded; motion passed.

Devotions/Study of the Word: Pastor Mark led devotions with a reading from the book *Praying With Martin Luther*.

President Debbie Villas called for a review and approval of the August 8, 2017 meeting minutes. Jim Zobel made a motion to approve the minutes, Debbie Lemery seconded; motion passed. Secretary Cathy Hipke reported that Ervin Sowell has moved away and requests to be removed from the rolls of membership of the Church. Mike Bellisle made a motion to remove Ervin Sowell from the rolls as requested, Jim Zobel seconded; motion passed.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Old Business**

Narthex Painting: Mike Bellisle reported that the Property Committee has not yet received a sample of the color from the Decorating Committee.

Tailgate Picnic: The picnic will be held October 1. Debbie Villas will contact Jackie for her notes on food amounts and ordering information. Ronda will take care of arranging for table delivery. Pastor Mark will check on permits for the sign. Mike will provide the grill. Set up will be after the 8 am service, prices will be \$5 plate/\$15 max per family. Patti will handle the press release.

AARP Tax Aid Program: Jim Zobel met with Tax Aid representatives and they agreed to make Emmanuel an official site for the Tax Aid program. The State of Michigan will provide 3 PC's and a printer. Jim Zobel will write up some information to be included in the Messenger asking for volunteers to help with the program. There will be training on the Michigan form held at Emmanuel December 7 from 9-1. Tax preparation will begin the first Monday in February.

## **New Business**

Custodian: There were no additional applicants for the position of indoor custodian as a result of the notice in the Messenger. The interested person who submitted an application last week will be interviewed on Thursday.

Abundant Life Commitment: Pastor Mark will invite the leadership from the Abundant Life Mission to speak at the next council meeting so that the council can learn more about what their needs are and decide if Emmanuel should make a monetary commitment to Abundant Life.

Church Storage: The Church was recently gifted from Ansul all of the games used at the Church Picnic. There is currently no room to store these games and the small trailer owned by the Church anywhere on the property. A notice will be put out to the congregation asking if anyone has room to store these items and the Property Committee will look into the possibility of adding some permanent storage at the Church, possibly a new shed or an addition to the existing shed.

Thanksgiving Eve Service: Pastor Mark and Bethel Lutheran Pastor Scott Ehle have discussed the possibility of combining the Thanksgiving Eve service, alternating years similar to what is done at Lent. Pastor Mark will speak further with Pastor Ehle about their traditions and see if they have interest in sharing the pie and ice cream social traditionally held at Emmanuel on Thanksgiving Eve.

## **REPORTS**

Youth and Family Ministry Director's Report: Patti discussed her written report.

Treasurer's Report: Gary Gustafson reviewed in general the monthly finances. A motion to pay the bills was made by Debbie Lemery, seconded by Ronda

Pedersen; motion passed. Gary handed out the preliminary 2018 budget asking the council to review for discussion and approval at next month's meeting. Pastor Mark reported that the Church was given an undesignated gift of \$5000. When Pastor Mark spoke with the donors at the picnic to offer thanks, the donors discussed that they would like to designate \$2500 to the youth fund and \$2500 towards the electronic reader board. Gary will set up a sign fund and move the monies appropriately.

### Committee Reports

Property: Mike Bellisle reported that the front steps will be repaired within the next few weeks. The committee will work on getting solid bids for the reader board and check on permits with an expectation of installation in the spring.

Outreach: The committee is meeting next week to plan out the year's calendar. The next event will be the trunk and treat. Patti will contact the city to confirm the date of citywide trick or treating.

Fellowship: Ronda Pedersen reported that the picnic was well attended with approximately 120 people.

Stewardship: The Stewardship Campaign for this year is titled "Thankful, Grateful, Spiritual – Growing our Faith through Generosity." It will kick off on September 24 with commitment Sunday being November 5 and celebration Sunday November 12. As a result of discussion around the upcoming stewardship activities, a decision was made to ask the congregation to recommit to their committee membership and volunteer efforts for the next year as part of the time and talent portion of the stewardship campaign rather than being automatically carried over from year to year on the same committees. This will give all members the opportunity to evaluate what is meaningful for them and will revitalize the current committees with people who choose to participate for the upcoming year. A decision was proposed to merge the Property and Decorating Committees because their interests/projects are so closely tied together. Mike Bellisle made a motion to accept the proposal of a merged Property/Decorating Committee, seconded by Jim Zobel; motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mark presented his written report.

President Debbie Villas closed the meeting on a motion by Jim Zobel seconded by Mike Bellisle; motion passed. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted  
Cathy Hipke, Council Secretary