

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING Minutes of January 9, 2023

Present: Gary Gausmann, Pastor Beth, Matt Kuehl, Shannon Morrison, Troy Freemyer, Gregg Burmeister, Carol Duffy, Shane Reich, Linda Marks, Jane Rudie, Diana Tonn, Donna Niesen-Campbell. Guests: Shannon Reich, James Harden, and Margie Moore of Memorial Committee.

Meeting called to order at 6:37 pm.

Pastor Beth led by reading a devotional about the "church refrigerator door" and solving issues inside and outside the church.

President's Report: The Annual Meeting is coming up and Gary is making up the agenda. If there are any topics or other items to be added, please let Gary know.

Secretary's Report: The secretary's report was electronically approved.

Treasurer's Report: Jim & Irma are in Florida, so Matt reported that our December giving was way lower than other Decembers, which put us \$17,000 behind. There was \$18,000 carried over from 1921-1922. After we added the money from the bus fund (\$14,800) we only had \$9,000 to carry over. At present, bills are paid and we have \$762 in the checking account.

CALENDAR CLEARANCES

- Stewardship Committee will meet on Sunday, February 12, & Sunday, March 12, at 10:15.
- Ash Wednesday luncheon will be after worship at noon, and will also be held each Wednesday thereafter.
- Dinner Church will be on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.
- No Hannah Circle or Faith-in-Action on February 19 due to the Annual Meeting.
- The Synod Youth Night should be changed to February 8 at 6:30 pm.
- Worship Committee will meet at 7:30 pm on February 7 and March 7.

MINISTRY & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Faith-in-Action: Matt made a motion to add Donna Niesen-Campbell to the committee, Pastor Beth seconded. Motion carried.
- Worship Committee: Carol made a motion to add James Harden to the committee, Shane seconded. Motion carried.
- Children's Ministry: Shannon Morrison reported that they will be adding blue tiles and murals to refresh the rooms that the kids will be using. She has the confirmation pictures scanned and added on a thumb drive. After discussion, Shannon suggested that Donna send summaries from the monthly committee reports to Marcie for inclusion in the Weekly Update, rather than having so many reports.
- Minutes and committee reports for the Annual Meeting should have been turned in to Marcie by January 6.
- The financial audit will be completed on January 16.

OLD BUSINESS

- The giving was under budget by \$30,000. We have a deficit of \$23,000 going into 2023. Our total expenses were \$281,000 and total income came to \$257,000. There was discussion on how to finance that: 1) through Endowment, 2) by eliminating designated funds, 3) cut the budget, 4) hope and pray that more money comes in. There is currently \$256,000 in the Endowment Fund and \$7,000 available in the Endowment checking

account. Troy made a motion to take \$60,000 out of Endowment to cover the deficit and bring the proposal to the congregation, Matt seconded, motion carried.

- There was discussion on whether to continue with one or two Sunday services. Shane suggested a possible Tuesday or Thursday evening service
- Matt made a motion to continue with one service on Sunday morning through Easter, Carol seconded, motion carried.
- Nominating Committee reported that Faith-in-Action has no chair; Diana has stepped down and will not be attending Church Council meetings in the future. Donna can bring their report in to the Council meeting. Troy has volunteered to run for president of Council (thank you, Troy). Adult Ministry will then have an opening for chair with Troy running for president.
- The financial audits will be updated next Monday, January 16.
- Personnel reviews: we may not hire a Music Director as this saves us \$10,000. Depending on the budget, it's possible we may approach the two music staff about changes to their position.
- We have \$72,000 in the bank to repair the hail-damaged roofs and insurance will pay the rest when the work is completed. The garage and shed are also covered.
- One wall is repainted a beautiful blue in Neemann Hall, with the rest to be completed in the near future.
- Only 6 of the 8 organ speakers will need to be replaced at a cost of \$1,800, plus about \$300 for renting a lift. Payment could be covered under the already approved \$20,000 for sound/speakers. Shane reported that there was an anonymous donor that offered to pay for it. Troy made a motion that we approve funding for the repair of the speakers up to \$3,000 from the \$20,000 allotted for the sound/speakers update with the money from the anonymous donor to reimburse the fund, Matt seconded, motion carried.
- Carillons update: Matt has the adapter for Michael Mood to test the amp so he can order the new system.

NEW BUSINESS

- For outgoing Council members, please return your Policies and Procedures Manual, keys, and other items to hand over to the new members. At this time, there are 40 keys checked out and we need to cut that number down.
- There is an amendment already in the Policies and Procedures Manual for the secretary and Pastor to schedule vacations at different times, so as to keep the church office open. Matt will discuss with both that we need someone at the church Monday-Thursday from 8-4:30 when practicable so it is accessible to contractors and technicians.
- Margie reported that the Memorial Fund had a request for funding for a display stand for confirmation pictures and other historical documents. She said that \$787.92 can be used as needed; consensus was positive. The stand will cost \$725. Troy made a motion to approve \$787.92 for the display stand, Gregg seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Beth made a motion to adjourn, Diana seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm following the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Donna Niesen-Campbell, council secretary