

**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Minutes of October 10, 2022**

Present: Gary Gausmann, Pastor Beth, Carol Duffy, Linda Marks, Dan Harvey, Troy Freemyer, Matt Kuehl, Jim and Irma Timm, Diana Tonn, Gregg Burmeister.

Guests: Margie Moore, Mary Ackerman, Brooke Ecker, Shannon Morrison.

Pastor opened with a passage from Manna and Mercy. We shared stories with each other of how we felt God's presence and had a prayer.

President's Report: Gary reported that we moved \$14,400 from the bus grant into the budget and after paying bills, we have \$6,800 in the checking account. Giving went up the last 3 Sundays but will probably level off again.

Secretary's Report: It was electronically approved. Donna asked that the October report be read and approved ASAP as she will be leaving for vacation for a week.

Treasurer's Report: We have \$6,800 left in the checking account after the deposit of \$14,400 and after bills were paid. Dan motioned that we pay the synod \$450/month (vs. \$300) to catch up on the payments that we are behind on. Troy seconded, motion carried.

CALENDAR CLEARANCES

- November 6 will be a Stewardship Sunday Temple Talk, with Stewardship Sunday with a meal instead of Cornerstone Cafe on November 13. The Cookie Stroll on November 5 is from 10 am - 1 pm.
- The Christmas tree setup will be on November 26 at 9 am, with the outdoor Christmas display setup at noon.
- No Thanksgiving service planned as of yet. Pastor is waiting to hear back from other churches regarding a community service.
- A children's Christmas program is yet to be determined.
- The Fire Truck Light Parade in Cottage Grove is on December 2 at 7 pm.

MINISTRY & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Worship Committee: There is no chairman, but still the committee still meets. They would like to extend the same Wed/Sunday services to the end of 2022. Wednesday service has 6 confirmands with a parent attending. Dan made a motion to approve the schedule to continue as is, Carol seconded, motion carried. There was discussion regarding Christmas Eve and/or a Christmas Day service.
- Stewardship: A draft of a brochure made up by the committee for stewardship Sunday was given to each CC member for approval and corrections. Pastor Beth motioned that we approve the brochure after the changes are made, Dan seconded, motion carried. Enough brochures will be printed to be sent to each family member of the congregation.
- Historical Committee: We received the report via email. The committee would like to buy a wall monitor for an ongoing display of pictures and get a large poster file where the pages flip to display the confirmation pictures.
- Endowment Committee: Jane Rudie volunteered to join the Endowment Committee and work with Cathie Marty and Georgia Punswick. Carol made a motion to approve Jane as a new member, Linda seconded, motion carried. Gary brought unopened financial mail which were opened and reviewed.
- Property Committee: Gregg reported that the building has been re-keyed on the 3 outside doors of the educational wing. Rita Sawatzky volunteered to look for quotes for new blinds and painting of Neemann Hall.
- New Member: Pastor Beth made a motion we approve Shannon Morrison as a new member, Carol seconded, motion carried.

- Youth Ministry: Dan made a motion to approve Shannon Morrison, Heather Strand, and Brooke Ecker to join the Youth Ministry team. Carol seconded, motion carried. There was discussion about preserving the confirmation pictures and re-homing them to prevent them from being damaged during youth activities.
- Adult Ministry: Troy and Dan will be working on the light show and fire truck parade. Pastor Beth made a motion to add Dan to the Adult Ministry Committee, Carol seconded. Pastor made a motion to add Gary to the Adult Ministry Committee, Dan seconded, motion carried.
- Faith-in-Action: Diana reported that 9 people helped with the highway cleanup. The Shared Tables program is coming back. She would like to see another chili cook-off in February. Troy offered to make it happen with Adult Ministries.
- HLCW: Diana reported that we need more people to volunteer and would like to see the kids and confirmants help with the Cookie Stroll. Troy made a motion that the Church Council as a whole all come to help at the Cookie Stroll. Irma seconded, motion carried.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- Radon mitigation will start Wednesday at 9 am and be done Thursday by noon. By next Monday, it should be safe and radon-free. We are under budget for clean-up; it was \$307, but will come about \$25-50 under that. The radon contractor also found a cheaper source of plastic, using 10 ml plastic instead of 12 ml, reducing our cost from \$8,900 to \$8,300.
- The homeschoolers group meets on Tuesday, renting 2 rooms at \$50 each for \$400/month. We need to find out if this is taxable income. The dog trainers group that was interested in leasing decided that the design of the rooms was not appropriate for them.
- The HLC website is still a work in progress.
- Gary received feedback from the Special Congregational Meeting. Comments were about having staff go part-time, doing lawn mowing ourselves, etc. Right now, it would be difficult to have part-time staff as we would have to give up services in other ways. We also get a good price on our lawn mowing for the size of our property, and it would take many people with many mowers to do it ourselves, which we're already having problems finding volunteers for programs. There is also the liability issue.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- The Executive Board felt that the budget is on track for the rest of the year, based on giving trends and we should be okay through December. Committees should work on their budgets for 2023.
- It was brought up that St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Cottage Grove was advertising to rent out their church for weddings and other special occasions. There was discussion about Hope following suit, but it is a liability issue and too many other factors to consider it a possibility.
- Gregg brought up that our agreement with groups renting rooms from the church needs to be looked at carefully and updated.
- Carol reported that there are special signs being made up for all the plantings in Hope Gardens and will be hopefully in place before the tour on Sunday.
- Margie reported that the Memorial Fund has \$2,976.47 in undesignated money.

Dan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Carol seconded, motion carried. We closed with the Lord's Prayer. Meeting ended at 8:35 pm.

Minutes submitted by Donna Niesen-Campbell, Council Secretary