

HLC CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING Minutes of September 12, 2022

Present: Gary Gausmann, Matt Kuehl, Jim and Irma Timm, Pastor Beth, Carol Duffy, Linda Marks, Gregg Burmeister, Diana Tonn, Troy Freemyer, Dan Harvey, Donna Niesen-Campbell.
Guests: Dick Lande and Margie Moore

--Meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm.

--Pastor opened with a devotion from Exodus.

--Dick Lande thanked us for participating in the retreat on behalf of Hope Lutheran Church.

--Pastor's Report: There is a funeral on Thursday for a former member, whose family was happy that they were able to have it at Hope. Pastor met via zoom with the synod, who said many churches are struggling besides us. She will get a power point presentation from them on what others have done to solve their issues.

--President's Report: Gary was informed about a church in Waunakee that had a husband/wife pastoral team, where the husband resigned to cut their expenses. Another Lutheran church in Deerfield has already been approached by a serious buyer whenever they close their doors.

--Vice-President's Report: Sonja Jensen turned in her letter of resignation. The Worship Committee will discuss options next Sunday. Linda said the choir is ready to self-lead. New Personnel Committee members are needed, and Matt will look into options after the Special Congregational Meeting. Ted has resigned as head of the Endowment Committee, but will stay on as an inactive member till a replacement is found.

--Secretary's Report: Report was electronically approved. Carol suggested I email Marcie separately about calendar changes.

--Treasurer's Report: Jim and Irma have just recently taken on the treasurer's position. We are short \$2,298 to pay the month's bills; we received \$2,600 in donations last Sunday. A total of \$15,000 is needed to pay staff salaries and benefits.

--Memorial Fund: Margie reported a balance of \$4,679.72. A total of \$1,703.25 from Dorothy Rodefeld's funeral is designated for repairs for the carillon bells. The Rodefeld family has committed to keeping them functional 24/7. They will do whatever is needed to keep them working.

CALENDAR CLEARANCES

--Stewardship Committee will meet September 25 at 10:00 am., along with an Open House for the new Historical Room. Fall Work Day is October 1 at 8:30 am. Stewardship Committee will meet on Sunday, October 9, after church at 10 am. Adopt-A-Highway will meet at 9:00 am on October 8, with rain date of October 15. Hannah Circle will NOT meet on October 16. Tour of Hope Gardens will be on October 16 at 10:00 am.

--Will there be a Thanksgiving service this year? Pastor will talk to New Life Lutheran, Bryn Mawr Presbyterian, and the Catholic church about a combined service.

MINISTRY & COMMITTEE REPORTS

--Worship Committee: Sonja has resigned as music director and we will need to find a replacement. Pastor would like to hear any feedback on the new worship set-up.

--Historical Committee: Carol reported that they will be meeting on September 13. They would like to get a projector continuously running showing old photos of the church.

--Property: Gregg is in the process of re-keying the church to reduce the number of keys that

are out. We are still getting roofing estimates. The carillon is out for repairs and has been delayed due to illness of the repairman.

--HLCW: The bazaar is coming up. Diana will get a flyer for the congregation on September 25, showing how it will be run differently. There will also be sign-up sheets that day. She and Marcie will make posters to go to other churches. Most of the food will have to be purchased; some will be made at church. The cookies will be made at church and will be pre-packaged for sale. Lunch will be served and carry-outs available, with no one actually touching the food. Jane Rudie and family are generously donating the turkeys.

--Faith-in-Action: August was Food Pantry month. Gary and Denise Snorek delivered the food to the Cottage Grove Food Pantry. Donations for the Food Pantry will be ongoing.

--Adult Ministry: Troy is still looking for ideas.

--Matt mentioned that an announcement will be made after the Special Congregational Meeting asking for new committee members and chairmen/women.

NEW BUSINESS

--The Church Council Retreat on August 27 was a success, and there was discussion about having 2 days, one for missions and one for business. There was agreement that it was beneficial to have it at a different church. We also discussed about the possibility of installing a labyrinth.

--Radon: the contractor would guarantee that the office would be at a lower number than the recommended threshold, and it may also lower the rest of the Sunday School building, for a cost of \$9,000. Doing the rest of the building would total \$18,000. An office will be set up for Marcie and Pastor in the Sunday School Building for 4 days/week.

--The home-school group will rent 2 rooms on Tuesday until May for \$100/week. We will have to provide a water unit and a coat rack pole. It may expand to other families, but as of now is about 4 families of 15 kids. A dance school inquired about renting space after a church in McFarland backed out on them. They have their own rolling mirrors and would use the large room. It would consist of possibly 2-3 afternoons/evenings per week for about 18 kids, ages 4-17. They provide their own insurance and music. Locks will be re-keyed so the keys provided to them won't work for the rest of the church.

--Church Website: Nathan Marks is waiting on photos and will send them back to Pastor and Marcie for appropriate captioning.

--Fall Church Service: Sunday was full with about 90 attendees.

--Special Congregational Meeting: A power point presentation will be shown. Pastor suggested having people go to different corners to put differently-colored post-it notes on whether you agree or disagree with the different options. There was more discussion about some congregants who asked about having staff leave during the budget discussion. It was decided that the meeting isn't about staffing at this time; the meeting is about how to successfully continue as a church and what to do about the budget situation. Actual agenda items should be on a paper ballot. Matt stated that we should have a microphone for people to comment and it should be limited to 2-3 minutes, we should be organized and we should possibly record it for better minutes-taking. Dick stated that we can't stay with the way we're going, we have to take care of the building but we have to take care of the soul of the members. We need to make people understand that we need help from everyone to be a church of God.

--Dan made a motion to adjourn, Gregg seconded, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.