

## Church Council Minutes September 10, 2023

Present: Lois, Pastor Tulu, Orrin, Evie, Connie

Absent: Deb, Ashley, Joel

Council Vice-President Orrin called the meeting to order at 10:34am. Pastor opened the meeting with prayer. No formal votes were made due to lack of a quorum.

### A. Consent Agenda

Motion: Evie recommended accepting the Agenda, August Minutes and Financial Reports as written.

Second: Connie agreed with the recommendation.

Discussion: In terms of profit/loss, there was a \$3,377 loss in monthly income for August compared to a \$420 loss in monthly income in August 2022. For the year, there is a negative \$12,591.65 loss for the year. Last year at this time, there was a negative \$16,977 loss.

Action: No vote due to lack of quorum. People have been very generous in their contributions toward specific funds, i.e., debt reduction, sewer repair. The current Mission Investment Fund (MIF) balance is \$82,327. A total of \$28,000 from the elevator fund and the debt reduction funds will be applied to the loan principle. Congregational approval is not necessary for this transfer as the congregation has already approved payments toward the loan and the elevator repair was a part of the MIF loan. A \$1,000 grant was received from the Greater Washington Community Foundation which Pastor Ale believes he applied for at one time. This was applied toward the sewer repair. The street repair is pending.

### B. Additions to the Agenda

- 1) Evie suggested renewing a previously issued booklet which outlined church resources, service information, etc. which would be helpful for new members. Lois will search for the old template. There has been discussion about how to update the old vent covers on either side of the altar area in the front of the church. Lois will check with Jim and Connie will check with Altar Guild about what is possible.

### C. Old Business

- 1) Inactive membership reactivation: There were 421 letters sent out to households with a return postcard enclosed for respondents to return with updated information. Between 60-70 postcards have been returned, some with positive and others with negative responses. The Council Vice President will address concerns expressed by some congregants.
- 2) Church Directory: Jill has agreed to take photos of individuals and families on Rally Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> and on Sundays thereafter according to Jill's availability. Connie will assist as needed.
- 3) Church BBQ: This is scheduled for Rally Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.
- 4) Adult Bible Study: Survey responses did not specify preference of time or day. Pastor will offer Bible study at 8:30 Sunday mornings prior to worship services commencing October 1<sup>st</sup>. More information to come.

### D. New Business

- 1) Pastor's Report: Two youth will be confirmed the end of October. On September 24<sup>th</sup>, the 10<sup>th</sup> graders and their mentors will meet. Rene will also meet with mentors to discuss role expectations. Preparations are in place for Rally Sunday as well as the picnic dinner. We will have as guest speaker Pastor Eliza Johnson from Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Fergus Falls on Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Ale will be at the Detroit Lakes Theology Conference

- September 17-19. Pastor Ale, Rene, Orrin and Deb Berndt attended the Road Trip gathering in Foxhome where Bishop Tesch spoke two weeks ago.
- 2) Vice President's Report: Orrin will contact Ashley and Joel about what dates/times work for them to alternate their attendance at Council. He will also contact the Worship Committee about joining future meetings. Council will change their meeting time to Tuesday evenings starting in October. The Personnel Committee is planning to do employee reviews of employee performance. Scott Wendorff, Chris Kelsen and Orrin will compile a set of directions for using the audio equipment. Hopefully, this will address the sound issues associated with broadcast services.
  - 3) Property Update: The committee is looking into cleaning just the vinyl siding of the north wall of the church.
  - 4) Mission Update: About \$375 has been raised for Luther Crest for the July/August Mission. September Mission will support the Rebbeka Circle's gathering of personal and school supplies. Please refer to information posted outside the overflow area. Planning will soon start for Operation Christmas Child.
  - 5) Youth Education Report: No report
  - 6) Financial Update: No further information
  - 7) Worship Update: Materials have been selected through the end of the year. With Christmas landing on a Sunday this year, there will be the regular morning worship and a 4pm service.
- E. Church Pulse: Pastor Ale, Connie and possibly Rene will attend the Congregational Vitality Day workshop in Detroit Lakes on September 16<sup>th</sup>. **The next Council meeting is tentatively set for Tuesday October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Luther Room. Confirmation will be sent to Council members.**
- F. Closing Prayer: Pastor Tulu lead Council in the Lord's Prayer.
- G. Adjournment: Council adjourned at 12:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Jensen  
Secretary