

Church Council Minutes
April 23, 2023

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

Absent: Joel

Council Vice-President Orrin called the meeting to order at 11:10 am. The meeting was relocated to the Fry'n Pan restaurant due to a sewer line break at church. Council met today due to a lack of a quorum at last week's scheduled time. Pastor opened the meeting with prayer.

A. Consent Agenda and Financial Reports

Motion: Deb made the motion to accept both reports as written.

Second: Connie seconded the motion.

Discussion: Lois reported that usage of the new ICON computer system for financial reports is going smoothly.

Action: carried

B. Additions to the Agenda

Motion: Deb made the motion to include the Ethiopian Dinner and SAM to the Agenda.

Seconded: Evie seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

Action: carried

C. Old Business

1) Large screen TV for entrance: Council considered replacing the bulletin board at the north door entrance with a TV for electronic announcements.

Motion: Connie made the motion to authorize Lois to purchase from Wal-Mart a 55-60" TV, spending up to \$500 for purchase/installation and using funds from the Thrivent Choice Dollars fund.

Second: Ashley seconded the motion.

Discussion: Lois is willing to shop for the TV and Scott Wendorff will be asked to install the unit. Those wanting to post announcements would continue to send their information to Lois in any format. The TV would run off Wi-Fi. If successful, perhaps a second one would be purchased for the narthex entrance, Fellowship Hall or other high-traffic area.

Action: carried

2) Inactive Member Reactivation: Sample letters used to reach out to inactive members were reviewed. More options of letters, possible use of post cards, etc., will be reviewed at the next Council meeting. Discussion continued about how to grow a stronger sense of "community" within the church through activities such as having a picnic at a local playground, movie night, game night, etc.

3) Council Dinner: A self-pay dinner for Council members and their families will be scheduled at a local restaurant for the purpose of fellowship and camaraderie. Orrin will make reservations.

4) Pictorial Directory: Orrin will discuss this project with Jill, as she had ideas about this last year. It is hoped to be launched on Rally Wednesday September 13th.

5) Ethiopian Dinner: Sunny Tulu and family provided an amazing authentic Ethiopian dinner April 15th to a crowd of about 100 people. A rich variety of chicken, beef, vegetables and bread offered attendees a tasty cultural experience. We thank them for their donations of food, labor and cultural offerings! About \$2000 was raised, all of which will go toward the Mission Investment debt reduction.

D. New Business

- 1) Pastor's Report: Holy Week went well. Six youth had First Communion on Maundy Thursday, the Good Friday service with the Methodist Church went well and there was a great turnout for Easter Sunday. There are three church members who were hospitalized and are now recovering at home. There were three funerals this last month. New member Sunday saw 11 members joining our congregation. Senior Recognition Sunday on April 30th will honor 17 graduates with a quilt and breakfast after church. Wednesday School participants will sing on Mother's Day May 14th. Wednesday School on April 26th is cancelled due to the broken sewer line. It is anticipated the line will be repaired by the next week. Lois will send out a notification to members.
- 2) Vice President's Report: No report other than the Ethiopian Dinner was a huge success!
- 3) Property Update: Evie reported sewer line repair should start this week on the east side of the building. The intrusion alarm on the elevator is in; the wiring for the elevator smoke detector is near completion. There remains some echoing in the broadcast of Sunday services. Lois will check with Tri-Corne Audio to ensure that all work is complete.
- 4) Mission Update: Connie stated that 75 pounds of groceries were donated and \$110 raised for the Richland-Wilkin Food Pantry. The BLW also raised an additional \$297 for a total of \$407 raised by BLC for the Pantry. Thank you to all who participated!
- 5) Youth Education Report: Ashley and Deb stated attendance has dropped since the end of Lent, some of which may be attributed to weather. This fall, Welcome Back and Bring a Friend to Church events are being discussed as is joining Bethel Lutheran for their summer VBS program.
- 6) Financial Update: Orrin reported that the committee has offered two ideas to help offset our debt. One incorporates congregants selling items on our Facebook page with proceeds of sales going toward debt reduction. Another consists of listing monthly/yearly church expenses and having members offer to cover that expense for the month. For more information, contact Jill or Orrin.
- 7) Worship Update: Committee is meeting next Sunday.
- 8) SAM: Council was recently made aware of the requirement for all Lay Ministers to become SAM, or Synodically Authenticated Ministers in order to continue practicing in our congregation or in other churches when presiding over a service. It is about \$600/yr per Lay Minister. There may be a cost for ministers as well. Inquiry will be made at the Synod for clarification.
Motion: Evie made the motion to cover the SAM expenses for Rene, Clark and Pastor Tulu.
Second: Deb seconded the motion.
Discussion: Pastor and the Council believe Rene and Clark's work is invaluable to this congregation and others they serve. We wish to support their work.
Action: carried

E. Church Pulse: Next Council Meeting will be held after church Sunday, May 21st in the Fellowship Hall.

F. Closing Prayer: Pastor Tulu lead Council in the Lord's Prayer.

G. Adjournment: Ashley made the motion to adjourn, Deb seconded the motion. Motion carried. Council adjourned at 12:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Jensen
Secretary