

Church Council Minutes
February 11, 2024

Present: Lois Fenske, Orrin Ausen, Jared Miller, Evie Fox, Pastor Ale Tulu, Connie Jensen, Ashley Johnson, Jill Ockhardt, Deb Berndt

Absent: Joel Herder

Council President Orrin called the meeting to order at 10:45am. Pastor offered a prayer.

A. Consent Agenda

- 1) Motion: Evie made the motion to accept the December Council Minutes and Financial Report as written.
Second: Jill seconded the motion.
Discussion: none
Action: carried

B. Additions to the Agenda

- 1) Motion: Connie made the motion to add discussion about the BLW sponsoring the Spring Basket raffle, Prayer Chain, and Wednesday night suppers.
Second: Ashley seconded the motion.
Discussion: none
Action: carried

C. Old Business

- 1) Congregation Constitution: Orrin, Lois and Connie are meeting to review the Constitution and assemble recommended changes for the next Annual Meeting.
- 2) Pictorial Directory: The photos taken by Jill thus far have been great! We will work on compiling a list of missing members to approach for photo sessions on a Wednesday night and/or Sunday morning.
- 3) Inactive Member Project: Council members will attempt to contact those members who did not respond to the membership letter sent out last fall.
- 4) Welcome Brochure: Lois shared a draft she has completed; some information is missing and will be gathered from various committees to be added later.
- 5) DVD Recordings to St Francis Nursing Home: Orrin will contact Paul Peterson, Spiritual Services rep at St Francis about providing DVD recordings of services and/or streaming services on Facebook
- 6) TV Broadcast: Orrin reported that a group of 5 volunteers will assist with broadcasting services. We have about 1.5 years of a 2-year contract with MidCo before we can consider contracting with Red River for internet and broadcast services. The Council encouraged the purchase of the remaining piece of equipment that will aid in the quality of our broadcasts. Orrin will contact Scott on this.

D. New Business

- 1) Pastor's Report: The Fergus Falls chapter of the Synod Conference will be held next month in Rothsay at 6:30pm. Pastor, Orrin and Rene will attend. We may need to reschedule the motivational speaker scheduled at our church March 10th to March 17th. Watch for updates online and in bulletins. Wednesday evening services during Lent will be led Round Robin style by area ministers. Cindie VanTassel was invited to present to Council a BLW sponsored Debt Reduction Fundraiser event March 17-April 14 which entails gift baskets provided by the congregation. Proceeds will go toward reducing the church's Mission Investment Fund loan.
Motion: Evie made the motion to approve the Debt Reduction Fundraiser.
Second: Jill seconded the motion.
Discussion: none
Action: carried
- 2) President's Report: Orrin requested that Jill's name be removed from the church's checking account and safe deposit box and that his name be added to both.
Motion: Deb made the motion as stated by Orrin.
Second: Jared seconded the motion.
Discussion: none

Action: carried

Pastor suggested that we limit the length of Council meetings to 1-1.5 hours. In order to accomplish this, committees need to submit their monthly report to Lois prior to the distribution of the agenda. Next month's reports are due to Lois by Wednesday March 6th. Per our Constitution, there shall be a representative from each committee attending Council. If a committee Council rep is unable to attend, please find a replacement to attend. Orrin suggested several goals for the Council to pursue this year. They are as follows:

- Organize the Personnel Committee for annual employee reviews to be conducted on a scheduled basis
 - Review our current Mission Statement and consider changes (Jill, Pastor and Jared volunteered to do this)
 - Assess areas where we can lower our expenses
 - Streamline the number of accounts currently open (Council will approach the Finance Committee about reviewing this)
 - Look into the feasibility of having Contemporary services
- 3) Property Update: This committee needs a representative for Council. Pastor will approach a possible candidate. Jared will move the float trailer to Krystle Schaible's garage. No further activity at this time.
- 4) Mission Update: The Prayer Chain volunteers met in order to make necessary changes. February's Mission is Someplace Safe. The March Mission is the Food Pantry. Grocery donations may be left in the overflow pews as previously done. Our church will partner with Boy Scout Troop 332 on March 16th when volunteer drivers from the congregation will drive Scouts and their leaders around Breckenridge when they canvas door-to-door for donations. Please call Bonnie Karels if you can volunteer to drive. Shifts run 9-12am or 12-3pm.
- 5) Youth Education Report: Youth crafted and distributed cute Prayer Rocks with an inspirational reading on them on February 11th for the congregation to take. Thank you!
- 6) Financial Update: Information was made available in fliers left on tables downstairs for members to review regarding paying off our debt. The committee may invest in CDs as well as encourage the use of the CDs from the Laken estate. Jill will provide a Temple Talk on our financial needs on a Wednesday night service. Wednesday night supper donations during Lent will go toward LYO once meal expenses are covered. Council reviewed the financial report and made suggestions to move some funds toward the Mission Investment Fund debt reduction.
Motion: Jill made the motion to put \$5,000 from the Wednesday Supper fund, \$2,445.48 from the Debt Reduction Fund and \$2,000 from the Thrivent Choice Dollars fund toward the Principle of the MIF loan, for a total of \$9,445.48. This would bring our debt down to \$42,760.25.
Second: Jared seconded the motion.
Discussion: none
Action: carried
- 7) Worship Update: This committee needs a Council representative.

E. Church Pulse

- 1) Insurance quotes; Our insurance premium is due in April. Jared will investigate what other churches are paying for their insurance coverage and report back to Council.

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

Adjournment: Council adjourned at 12:35pm. Next Council meeting will be 6:30 pm Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Jensen
Secretary