

Church Council Minutes
January 9, 2024

Present: Deb, Pastor Ale, Lois, Evie, Orrin, Connie

Absent: Ashley, Joel

Council Vice-President Orrin called the meeting to order at 6:36pm. Pastor offered a devotional reading.

A. Consent Agenda

1) December Council Minutes/Financial Report

Motion: Deb made the motion that the Choir and Worship Instruments accounts be combined and renamed the Choir/Music account

Second: Evie seconded the motion.

Discussion: This recommendation was made to the Council by organist Kay Nelson.

Action: carried

Motion: Evie made the motion that the Building and Property accounts be combined and renamed the Building/Property account; further, that the Elevator and Debt Reduction accounts be combined and renamed to the Debt Reduction account.

Second: Deb seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

Action: carried

Motion: Connie made the motion to accept the December Council Minutes and Financial Report.

Second: Deb seconded the motion.

Discussion: Overall, revenues are down from last year. A total of \$229,992 was donated in 2023 as compared with \$243,000 in 2022. There is a balance left of \$52,960 of the MIF loan.

Action: carried

B. Additions to the Agenda

Motion: Evie made the motion to add discussion about Mission, the parade float, DVD recordings to St Francis NH, Luther Crest scholarships, pictorial directory, new member welcome brochure and updating the church Constitution.

Second: Deb seconded the motion.

Action: carried

Discussion: Council members discussed monthly Mission ideas and would like to see more member involvement in meeting community needs such as Feed My Starving Children, volunteering at the Food Pantry, Micah's Mission (previously Churches United) etc. Families and youth will be reminded of available scholarships at BLC for Luther Crest Retreats. The parade float needs to be sheltered for the winter; a call will be made to the family willing to store it. Evie will investigate how we can get a DVD recording of Sunday services to St Francis NH for resident use. The pictorial directory and new member brochure are in initial stages of completion. Both projects are on hold until after the Annual Meeting.

C. Old Business

- 1) Annual Report/Budget: Committee budget and annual reports are due to Lois by Friday, January 12th. The Financial and Stewardship committees along with Property have openings. Someone has expressed interest in the Council Vice President position and will be nominated at the Annual Meeting January 28th.

- 2) Inactive Member Project: tabled until the February Council meeting.

D. New Business

- 1) Pastor's Report: Pastor reported that about 10 people worked at the Feed My Starving Children event at the FargoDome January 6th. Wednesday worship's theme will be the Book of John's "I AM". Doing another Round Robin with area ministers over Lent will be discussed at the Pastor's Conference this week; there has been interest in this. Pastor requested that his housing allowance be altered from \$16,000 to \$20,000 from his salary. The Christmas service was very well attended. He has a wedding next spring at another church. It was recommended that our congregational contribution to the Synod Benevolence Intent be \$7500. We contributed \$7000 last year. This will be discussed and voted on at the Annual Meeting.
- 2) Vice President's Report: On January 17th there will be a meeting with all those currently operating the video recording equipment to formalize standard operating procedures and a schedule of volunteers.
- 3) Property Update: Nothing new to report.
- 4) Mission Update: January's Mission was Feed My Starving Children. Someplace Safe is February's Mission and the Food Pantry is scheduled for March's Mission. Pastor suggested that in April we raise funding for a couple who will do a presentation as Martin Luther and his wife Katie. More on that closer to the date.
- 5) Youth Education Report: The children's Christmas program was held December 17th. The children did a great job and the service was well attended. Kudos to the teachers for all their hard work in this presentation! The children will be making Happy New Year cards for residents at the nursing home.
- 6) Financial Update: No further information.
- 7) Worship Update: No further information.

E. Church Pulse

- 1) Constitution & Bylaws: Orrin and Connie will review and update the congregational sections.
- 2) Community Safety Net Funding: Lois was contacted by Kevin Franklin at Community safety Net, a program currently operating locally in which churches and businesses offer information to youth about how to be safe and drug-free. He asked that BLC join area churches in donating toward this program. Council agreed that proceeds from the January 17th and January 24th Wednesday night suppers will go toward this resource for youth.

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

Adjournment: Council adjourned at 8:36pm. Next Council meeting will be 6:30 pm Tuesday, February 17, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Jensen
Secretary