

COUNCIL MEETING

June 15, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: Lynn called the meeting to order at 5:40.

ATTENDANCE: Lynn, Dave, Pastor Jim, Bethany, Jane, Stacey, Frank, and Linda.
Deb had been excused.

NON-COUNCIL MEMBER: None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Lynn stated she had one item to add under New Business, the topic of church janitor.
Motion was made to accept the agenda with the above addition Beth/Stacey MSC.

DEVOTION: Pastor Jim discussed with us having faith like a child. Life kicks us around and we need to have trust that the Creator is always with us. Fear is the opposite of faith.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PROPERTY: Dave- Working on how to mount the solar lights for the new signage.

CYFED: Linda- No meeting in June.

Wendy was able to do the Prayer Labyrinth with all six graduates. One of the graduates received his quilt privately and the other five received theirs during the Blessing part of Sunday service.

WORSHIP: Lynn- In May the average in person attendance was 38 and online it was 194.

If Pastor Jim is available he has agreed to continue to send the message portion of the service to us when Pastor Seth is on vacation.

The visitation team will resume Sunday service at Interfaith probably the second Sunday of September.

We will be having Outdoor Service on July 18 and August 15.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Lynn stated that the sentence after CALL TO ORDER: should read - Lynn called the meeting to order at 5:35. Motion made to accept the Secretary's Report with correction noted above Pastor Jim/Beth MSC.

Correspondence- none.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Frank questioned item Church Staff Support. Lynn explained that this is a stipend that we are now giving to Joel and Christy for their work to prepare service and make it available on line.

PASTOR 'S REPORT: Pastor Jim spoke about Bethesda's opportunity to grow our congregation with our new pastor and to be aware of ways that we can help make this a positive experience for everyone.

He stated that statistics show that if a church has 10 events per year it helps the church to grow.

He indicated that it would be very helpful to give the new pastor a description of each committee and who is on those committees.

New pastor should select congregation members to be on a Mutual Ministry Committee that should meet once per quarter.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lighting for new signage- Dave and Lynn are working on this.

Congregational Special Meeting May 23-

There were 68 confirmed members present. To call Seth as our pastor there were 60 Yes votes, 6 No votes.

To offer Seth the salary and benefit package presented by the Executive Committee the vote was 59 Yes and 7 No. 2 members had abstained from voting.

The paperwork has been completed, signed, and mailed to the Synod.

Gardens at church- Linda stated that the plants will arrive on Friday, June 18. She will notify volunteers what date of the following week that they will be planted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Potluck- June 27. Information will again be on our website and Facebook encouraging congregation members to attend to say goodbye and thank you to Pastor Jim for his time with us, to welcome Seth and Andrea to Bethesda, and to bring something to share at the potluck.

Seth's Ordination- July 31 at 1 o'clock at Bethesda. He will also be installed as Bethesda's Pastor at that time. We will be providing a lunch after the service and more information will be available in July.

Clearing trees from powerlines on southwest corner of parking lot- Linda spoke with a contractor hired by the power company who is going to be clearing trees in this area. He indicated that the group of trees on the southwest corner of our parking are among those that he would like to possibly remove. He wanted permission from the church to work on the trees and stated that there would be no cost to the church for this work. The council decided that we should contact him and tell him we are in agreement with whatever he feels needs to be done. Lynn was given his card and will discuss with him exactly what he plans to do.

Church Janitor- Alice Kloepfer, who is our current janitor, has submitted her letter of resignation to the church. She has had a change in her job status from part-time to full-time and is now not able to meet the time requirements needed to properly clean the church. She stated she would remain on as Church Janitor until we can find a replacement. This job opening will be put on the Bethesda website and Facebook.

Mary Saarela has started a sign-up list for people to help with mowing the lawn. At this time the church does not have its own lawn mower.

THANK YOU: A thank you was sent to Larry Beckstrom for the years that he has mowed the lawn and one will also be sent to Paul Carpenter for the same activity.

NEXT MEETING: July 13, 2021 5:30.

We traditionally take the month of July off but felt that with our new pastor starting in July it would be appropriate to meet that month to be sure that the council is available to answer any questions and that all church matters are being addressed.

We will decide in July whether or not we will take off the month of August.

EXECUTIVE MEETING: July 6, 2021 via email

It was decided that we will go back to having council members do the devotion at each meeting and that Linda will have that schedule available at the next meeting.

Frank will do devotions for July.

It was also decided that we will not go back to having a snack or light meal at our meetings. Council members are encouraged to bring a beverage as they wish.

NEXT MEETING: July 13, 2021 at 5:30.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 6:24 by Dave/Jane MSC.

Closed with the LORD'S PRAYER.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Newlon, Council Secretary