

## Council Meeting

February 15, 2018

Meeting called to order at 5:34

Present: Jason, Teresa, Deb, Nevada, Beth, Linda, Lynn, Dave, Ryan, Jane, Stacy, Pastor Mary Fiel, Frank via telephone.

No non-council members were present.

Devotion/prayer: Pastor Mary Fiel

Recognition and welcome to new members: Teresa, Deb, Nevada, Jane, and Frank.

Information about role of a council member: Pastor Mary Fiel read information from the constitution and showed a video regarding training for leadership. It had three main points;

1. The Christian leader follows God's word in order to lead. This includes worshiping, praying, studying, serving, giving, inviting, and encouraging.
2. A Christian leader's focus is on God's mission.
3. Christian leadership is stronger when we are in partnership with the pastor.

Pastor Mary stated she wants

the congregation to work on establishing a mission for Bethesda. Pastor and Dave both emphasized that people need to ask questions.

Council retreat: input was given from council members as to what to discuss and when it would happen. Stacy would like us to go over all the Church documents. She feels this would help us as a council to make decisions about issues that come up.

Pastor Amy from the Synod might be able to come and give us information and answer questions. Pastor Mary Fiel will discuss this matter with her.

It was decided to do it on May 6 after church as Frank plans to be back from Arizona by that time. It will be from noon until 4 o'clock and we may have it here at church or possibly have another church. If we do it someplace close we could maybe have lunch delivered. We will revisit this issue at the next council meeting.

Assign council members to committees: Social Ministry— Jane, Endowment/Memorial – Frank, Property - Dave, CYFED- Deb will attend a meeting and see if this seems like a good fit for her, Worship- Lynn, Stewardship & Evangelism- Pastor Mary is going to work on re-organizing these two committees. Stewardship- need to enlarge the focus beyond just giving money. It was mentioned that there are a number of people in the church that are doing some of these activities already and maybe we can have them be involved in a more organized manner.

Election of council officers:

President - Jason nominated Dave who declined. Motion for Lynn as President Jason/Stacy MSC. 11/1 with Dave opposed.

Vice President- Jason volunteered for this. Motion for Jason as Vice President Lynn/Dave MSC 12/0.

Secretary- Linda volunteered for this. Motion for Linda to be secretary Ryan/Lynn MSC 12/0.

Approval of agenda:

Motion to accept the agenda Deb/Beth MSC.

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept as printed Deb/Beth MSC.

Linda reported that we received a thank you from the Carlton high school for the donation toward the community paper.

Treasurer's Report:

December- Motion to accept December report Deb/Jane MSC.

January - Motion to accept January report Jason/Beth MSC, after discussion that there should be a memo regarding the line item Sponsorship of Child. It should state that the child is Anita and it is through the Child Fund. Jason

noted that the interest from the W&R account was listed as income in January. Lynn will check with Sue Coady to be sure that this is not done in the coming months. It had been decided at the December council meeting that we would not use that interest at this time.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mary highlighted the email report she had sent us. She is on 2 Synod committees and has been to those meetings. She is working on activities for Lent. She has scheduled a number of members to visit and has posted a schedule at church, usually seeing them on Tuesdays or Thursdays. Comment was made at one of the visits that there should be a different way of connecting with people to volunteer for activities. It was suggested that we send the sign-up list for an activity around the tables during fellowship time.

Jason questioned when Pastor will be gone on vacation in March. She will leave after the March 11 service and return back home March 16. She stated she will not miss any Sundays and will work on getting coverage for the Wednesday service. Bobbie will have the name and number for any emergencies.

Committee Reports:

Property – Dave

Written report highlights – he replaced three thermostats and put LED lights in the two center rows in the sanctuary. Working on coffee station. Minnesota Energy came and did an energy audit and we may change more of the lights to LED.

CYFEd- Linda

Written report highlights – working on Lenten activities of institutions for first communion and for confirmands. Plan to continue to be part of tri-parish summer camp at Zion. At this time we do not know if there will be a preschool class. Working on supper retreat for the graduates and their parents. Discussed new format of a checklist for each activity and how this will hopefully make it easier for anyone in charge of an activity. Will also have orders and receipts for items for each activity placed in an envelope and they will be reviewed at each meeting before being given to the treasurer for payment. It is the hope that this will make it easier to follow what is being spent and why.

Old Business:

Amendment – second vote was done on Sunday February 11. It passed 54 to 1. Linda has been in contact with Pastor Rollie regarding how to add this to our Constitution and the correct format to use to send it to the Synod. Sue Coady has been training Nita Davis to assume the Treasurer's position. There is a definition of this job in our Constitution. Jason had told her that we would like her to be at council meetings and we could be flexible regarding the agenda. Council may need to vote to hire her when she is done with her training. Lynn will check on what the Constitution requires. Jason also stated that Nita's professional license prohibits her from signing the church checks. Bobbie is able to sign checks.

Financial Secretary- Sue Coady is working on this.

Interest income – it had been decided that we will not take the interest at this time but will revisit depending on the status of the budget.

Automatic payment of pledges- question has been raised if the amount we are paying for this service is appropriate. Frank stated that the amount on the Treasurer's report that Vanco is charging us is very reasonable. It was decided to keep Vanco. It is helpful for the treasurer to know that each month a specific amount of money will be coming in.

Telephone – would there be a cheaper provider? Frank stated the amount that is listed seems high. Deb will check on alternate source of phone and Internet.

Three different Bibles – Linda

The Bibles are given at baptism, third grade, and confirmation. They are age appropriate for each of these times. The one at confirmation will be changed to the same Bible that we are using in church which is the NRSV.

Building use policy – re-key – Ryan

The estimate from Hagens is \$265 to redo all the locks, including the door by the parking lot, and 15 keys.

The lock box would be about \$20. The question was raised where the money would come from for these items and it was decided to put this under Old Business for the next council meeting.

Snow shoveling schedule – Beth

Sign-up sheet was made available and has some names on it. Will send it around during coffee hour.

Pastor Mary stated that one of the local 4H groups is interested in using our fellowship hall for their meetings. They might be willing to do tasks such as shoveling for the use of our church space.

Website- Linda

Continuing to work with Bobbie to get committee minutes and Council minutes on the website.

Pastor Mary's picture – Beth and Pastor Mary Fiel discussed this and are going to try to use Pastor Mary Fiel's phone to take the picture.

Will look into a new phone directory at a later date.

New Business:

Who has authorization to sign checks at this time? Bobbie is able to do this. Pastor Mary will discuss this with Sue Coady. An additional person is necessary and it will probably be Lynn now that she is Council President.

Devotion /treats- Deb

Executive committee meeting – it was decided that Linda will make up a tentative agenda and email it to the President, Vice President, and Pastor. The finalized agenda will be given to council members electronically. A printed copy will be available to all congregation members the Sunday before the meeting.

Next council meeting –

March 8 at 5:30. Discussed with all council members what day and time is going to work best. Once Frank is back from Arizona Thursday does not work for him. We will continue to meet the second Thursday of the month until Frank returns and will then probably change to Tuesday nights.

7:57 motion made to adjourn Beth/Teresa MSC.

Meeting closed with the Lord's prayer

Respectfully submitted by,

Linda Newlon

Council Secretary