

Council Meeting

September 11, 2018

Meeting called to order – Lynn at 5:38

Council members present: Stacy Frank, Jane, Dave, Lynn, Deb, Linda, Pastor Mary. Theresa and Jason were on phone conference. Beth came at 6 o'clock after a previous meeting. Nevada and Ryan had called prior to meeting saying they would not be able to attend.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Lynn requested that MCCU be added under old business and Pastor Mary Fiel requested that the topic of chickens be added under new business. Motion was made to accept the agenda with additions as listed above Stacy/Frank MSC.

DEVOTION/PRAYER: Beth

PROPERTY- two new LED lights have been put in the sign on the front of the church. The question was raised at the last meeting as to where the carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are located in the church. Investigation found that there are no detectors at this time. Three smoke detectors and two carbon monoxide detectors will be purchased and installed.

CYFEd- Linda

Day Camp-\$349.56 is Bethesda's portion. Linda asked if WELCA has paid towards Day Camp in the past. Frank stated that Memorial and Endowment has given money in the past for a Camperships and that they might have some funds available for this activity.

Stewardship class – this is a new class that will be part of the faith formation. Linda had reported on this at the last meeting but neglected to mention that CYFED was planning to give each student an amount of money to be used on a project to be determined by each student. Frank raised concerns about the fact that the church is over budget at this time and wondered whether Endowment should be approached about paying for this learning activity. He also wondered how we want to deal with the fact that we are over budget. Pastor Mary Fiel stated that when looking at spending most areas haven't overspent. Maybe it is time to address this shortfall by asking for some form of additional income.

WORSHIP: Lynn –

Decided at Worship Team meeting to have Christmas Eve service at 5 and 9:00.

September 30 – Affirmation of Baptism we will have a name tags.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Motion was made to accept as printed Frank/Jane MSC.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

June_ question was asked where the amount of money collected at coffee time goes. It goes into the Sunday offering. If Social Ministry hosts the coffee then a check is given to Alice to send to the designated organization. Motion was made to accept the June report Stacy/Frank MSC.

July- The salaries for Pastor Mary and Bobbie are divided into 26 pay periods which is why some months there are more payments than other months. Motion was made to accept July statement Frank / Deb. MSC.

August - W&R - there will now be just 2 investment accounts: Money Market Fund \$828 Reserve Fund Astrid- 895 \$58,401

The church still needs to make a payment to Memorial/Endowment.

Beth asked if we could do a fundraiser for this amount. A number of possibilities were discussed and it was the general consensus this is something should be done before December. It will be put on the agenda for next month that we need to discuss the payment to Memorial/

Endowment.

\$15,000 had been transferred to MCCU and then Nita had to put that amount back at Frandsen to balance the checkbook. This should all be straightened out by the end of September.

The new coffee maker needed to be repaired due to a leak. There wasn't supposed to be a charge to us so Lynn will check on getting a reimbursement.

There had been a question at last month's meeting about the payment for the new phone systems and installation. Terry and Sue Coady paid for the costs involved to make this change and this shows up in July as a donation.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Reviewed emailed report.

In August there was one wedding and a number of pastoral care visits. Pastor stated she enjoyed the outdoor service and wondered about possibly doing more of them next year. She also stated that she needs to be informed about people who may need a visit. She has checked on the computer for those who are considered to be members but haven't been coming and she will try to contact them. It is a long list.

She is involved with the number of community groups that deal with housing and poverty.

She stated that Faith Formation is going well. She is still planning to get a Stewardship Committee established and it will have input from Nita. Stacy said she would be willing to help but would not be able to lead or do any calling.

When looking at Bethesda's mission Pastor is wondering if we might be able a church that focuses on the homelessness. She is currently reading the book titled "Simple Church". It has information about being able to help without getting overwhelmed.

Stacy was wondering if we were going to be involved with Thrivent's large community project. Pastor replied that she had told Mitch, the Carlton Thrivent agent that we had not come up with an idea for this year. A Carlton community group did a breakfast for the Carlton teachers. This might be something that we could get involved with next year for all the schools in the area. Teresa said that there is a church that donates school supplies in the fall and during the winter donates hats and other winter clothing items.

OLD BUSINESS:

Key for the lock box – Executive Community, Pastor and Bobbie will know where the code is kept.

Property/Building Use Policy- it will be on the website soon. The \$250 check deposit is returned at the end of event. The check is held in the office until that time. It is required from non-members, non -active members and those using the building for profit.

The church insurance policy says that Bethesda is responsible if something happens if it is related to building maintenance. If they cause something to happen, like a spill, then it is their responsibility. Most community groups are covered by our insurance. If there is a question about a specific person or organization it is best to call the insurance company to see whether or not Bethesda will be responsible.

Report to Synod and VLM about our active members is made at the end of the year.

W&R- quarterly report is in the office.

Budget - the Executive Committee will start working on it in November.

Retreat – Jason, he is going to send an email to River of Grace. Frank stated that he checked on the website and feels that they were referring to a retreat that is happening in October the 4-7 for men and October 11-14th for women in Grand Rapids.

MCCU- all accounts are there now except half of the Memorial / Endowment account which is going to be moved after all the checks have cleared. New checks for MCCU were requested but not ordered by the bank. Lynn will order them tomorrow. At this time deposits are still being made at Frandsen but this will be changed soon and information will be given to offering counters.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chickens – the neighbors to the east of the church made a request to Pastor Mary that we give our approval to their application to raise chickens. A motion was made to give her our approval for the request by the church neighbors to have chickens Lynn/Stacy. Question was raised as to what the city ordinance actually allows. Beth stated she knows that it does not allow roosters.

Lynn called for the vote, there was one no and the rest were yes.

THANK YOU- Sue & Terry Coady

Next meeting – Tuesday, October 9 Executive Meeting - October 2, 5:30

ADJOURNMENT: 7:12 Motion made Beth/Jason to adjourn meeting MSC.