

COUNCIL MEETING

November 10, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: Lynn called the meeting to order at 5:36.

PRESENT: Pastor Jim, Lynn, Dave, Beth, Jane, Linda, and Stacy. Deb and Frank had been excused.

NON-COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion was made to accept the agenda as printed Pastor Jim/Stacy MSC.

DEVOTION: Pastor Jim spoke to us about the seasons as mentioned in Ecclesiastes Chapter 3. Current discord and unrest are conditions we are dealing with. Are we going through our own wilderness days? Hopefully we will learn to rely more on God. He is present every day. We need to remember to be a support for each other.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PROPERTY- Dave has installed one of the handicap parking signs and marked the parking spaces. Pastor Mary's picture was added to the Pastor's picture gallery.

Thermostat in Vicar's 's office.-it may need a new battery and Dave will check the other thermostats also.

There was some question as to whether the freezer should be turned off but at this time it is nearly full of items so that helps it run efficiently. The new refrigerator is very efficient and there is no need to turn off the power at this time.

Removal of trees by parking lot has been put on hold as it is possible that we might sell that lot and then we would not need to deal with the trees.

Snow removal- Sidewalks and doorways need to be shoveled, especially on snow storm days. Will have Joel put on Facebook.

Harold Ankrum does the snow plowing. He has always volunteered the service and the council feels that we should give him a gift to show our thanks. Lynn will speak with his wife to see if she has a suggestion as to what he would appreciate.

CYFED- Linda reported that confirmation class is continuing, it will wrap up at the beginning of December. The Middle School Gathering for the Bethesda youth is planned for Saturday, November 21 at Bethesda with social distancing and face masks. Some videos that were provided by the Synod will be used to give instruction for activities and information about different topics. At this time we are expecting eight youth who will be divided into small groups with adult supervision.

Individual packed lunches will be purchased from Magnolia Café.

Bethesda's GWOH - The deadline to use the coupon for Magnolia Café has been extended to the end of November.

WORSHIP- Lynn reported that the Sunday in person service average attendance has been 21 and those viewing it online 160. There will be no service on Thanksgiving. Mid-week Advent Service will be online. There will be one service on Christmas Eve at 5:30 in person and live on Facebook.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Motion was made to accept the report as printed Beth/Jane MSC.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Pulpit supply of \$300 to Joel was for one online service the last week of September and then the first week of October.

The stipends for Joel and Christy that were approved at the October meeting will show up on the November statement.

Work of the People is an educational item that is used by CYFED.

Nita will get an alert from Bobbie when new bills come in.

Lynn is still working with Church Mutual to get them to correct the new amount of our payment.

Motion was made it to accept the Treasurer's Report Lynn /Beth MSC.

PASTOR 'S REPORT:

Pastor was wondering what the status is of the various council members regarding term of service. Deb, Frank, Stacy, and Jane have one year left. Lynn, Dave, Linda, and Beth are in their last year of their second term. These

members will decide by the December meeting whether or not they will agree to be on the ballot in January.

The constitution says that the Annual Report should be out to the congregation by January 3.

The Synod is working on a format that can be used for the Annual Meeting.

Pastor asked what Bethesda does regarding preparation for the Annual Meeting.

Pastor thought we should have a plan regarding the need to change current worship and other activities due to increased Covid cases. Lynn replied that the worship team is staying on top of the Covid numbers and will make recommendations to the council.

Beth suggested that if activities such as the Annual Meeting need to be done by zoom those who don't have that capability at home might be able to watch it in the fellowship hall with face masks and social distancing.

Pastor Jim will be doing Dorothy Gault's funeral at graveside on Friday, November 13 and Joel will be putting it live on Facebook. They will have a celebration of life for Dorothy in the summer.

Discussed possibility of doing calls to the congregation since we haven't done that since June. Linda will check the call list and let council members know who to call.

OLD BUSINESS:

Call Committee- They have had a zoom interview with a candidate who now lives in North Dakota. The candidate is going to meet in person with the Call Committee and check out the surrounding area this coming week.

Zoom meeting with United Lutheran- we had a meet and greet with them on November 8. Discussed maybe sharing a pastor and the hope to resume youth group. They are also talking with Our Saviors in West Duluth. We told them we are also talking with the Presbyterian church in Carlton, Rivers Edge.

It was mentioned that the Call Committee should know that any candidate they talk to needs to be informed that we are thinking about possibly being a two point parish.

New directory- on hold.

New Signage- Lynn The sign will be white letters on a black background and the first line will be "All are welcome", the heart with a cross will be the second line and the third line will be Bethesda. When the sign arrives information regarding it will be put in the Beacon.

River's Edge- Lynn reported that they are still not having in person service.

Gardens at IFFC- Linda spoke with John who is the new maintenance supervisor at Interfaith Care Center. He is glad that we are willing to help with the project but it is on hold at this time due to some questions regarding the contract between Interfaith Care Center and SWCD. I told him that we will check back with him in the spring about the status of this project.

Garden by Bell Tower- Beth reported that we will try to start that project in the spring per suggestions from Alyssa at SWCD.

Banner in Fellowship Hall- Jane made and attached all new letters for the name Bethesda. Banner looks great!

NEW BUSINESS:

Potential sale of 1 1/2 lots of parking lot area – Lynn presented emails between her and the potential buyer, Debora Winchell. Debora would like to buy a lot and a half so she would have 60' x 150'. She has researched recent real estate transactions in the area and feels that \$15,000 is a fair price. Lynn spoke with Teresa Solomon who is a realtor and she stated that the property would be worth \$32,000. Frank stated that property usually sells for about two times the taxable value so he would suggest \$23,000. A motion was made that we pursue the selling of 1 1/2 lots Lynn/Jane MSC. Lynn will check with the assessor's office and another realtor so that we can determine what price would be appropriate. Lynn will then text this information to the council. She will call Deb and give her the information from this meeting.

THANK YOU: Will send one to Harold for plowing after Lynn discusses this issue with his wife Cheryl.

NEXT MEETING: December 8 at 5:30.

EXECUTIVE MEETING: December 1 via email

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Beth/Stacy MSC at 7:14.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Newlon, Secretary