

Council Meeting

December 11, 2018

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: at 6:01 by Lynn

ATTENDANCE: Dave, Stacy, Jane, Jason, Pastor Mary Fiel, Linda, Debbie, Lynn, Nevada, Teresa, Frank.

ABSENT: Beth and Ryan had been excused.

NON-COUNCIL MEMBER: none

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion was made by Debbie/Nevada to approve agenda MSC.

DEVOTION: Frank

PROPERTY: Dave - Shed for seasonal equipment in place, was donated by Beattys. Many ceiling tube lights have been replaced. At this time they are not LED as those are not available. Dave is waiting for a quote regarding a door for the rear entrance and for the basement outside door. Question was raised as to who is responsible for the sign-up sheet for snow removal. Linda will check with Beth to see if she does this as part of the time and talent sheets.

CYFEd: Linda - Stewardship classes started on December 5. It was decided to give the students \$25 at one class and then \$75 at another class. They will be discussing ways to use the money in class and will report back to Pastor Mary Fiel as to how they use the money.

WORSHIP TEAM: Lynn - attendance is averaging about 93 people per week. On December 30 Pastor will be gone for her Christmas break. There will be no pulpit supply and no communion. Worship team plans to use the Lessons and Hymns format for the service.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Motion to approve report by Stacy/Jane. MSC

No corrections/no correspondence.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Frank mentioned that on November 20 it states that Pastor was paid twice. Stacy believes that it was just entered on the wrong date and she will check with Nita to have this corrected. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, with the correction as noted, Frank/Dave MSC.

PASTOR'S REPORT: November report had been emailed to Council members. Pastor reported that while working on preparations for the bazaar she had a conversation with some of the members about having a visioning meeting. She is thinking it would be a good idea to do a survey at this time to see what issues the congregation would like to address. She feels that the church seems to be more stable at this time and would ask for input for goals. Lynn and Frank feel it is also important to focus on ways to increase attendance and increase members. The council was in agreement that the survey would be a good idea and Pastor will make up a form.

Stacy mentioned that it might help to have a team work with Pastor to reach out to members who are no longer coming to find out why they are no longer attending. On the last survey the addition of a service other than Sunday was mentioned by a number of respondents. It may be that they don't know that we now have a Wednesday night Service.

Linda will check to see if the school is still putting our Wednesday night supper on the electronic board as this is a community meal.

We also need to address how we can provide more activities for our youth.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on 2019 budget- The copy of the proposed budget was handed out and includes a great reduction in the CYFEd budget. They are hoping that some of their expenses, especially the stewardship class, might be covered by Memorial/Endowment.

They completely cut out our support of the tri-parish daycamp due to the high cost that Bethesda pays compared to the number of our members that attend. We share the total cost with the other two churches regardless of how many of our members attend. They are hoping to have something this summer to provide a family faith experience.

The estimated income was based on a guess of what our total income will be this year.

Frank questioned how we approach members who are not giving. It was mentioned that the Stewardship Committee when it was active did send a reminder to members. Now that we don't have a Stewardship Committee that is not being done.

We need somehow to remind all the members of the need to meet our building and upkeep expenses and also fund faith formation activities. There is also a problem getting some activities done due to not having enough people to do the work. Stacy is willing to write a letter with some help from others regarding member contributions. Pastor said she can do a general sermon on generosity, but would not feel comfortable speaking specifically about the budget because the majority of the budget is her salary.

Teresa mentioned that if families were aware that there is a need to financially support youth activities they would probably be willing to pay for the cost of the programs.

Lynn stated that expenses were cut everywhere that it was possible to cut them but some things are expenses over which we don't have much control.

Our phone service seems to be quite high. There was a question as to whether it would be possible to be part of someone's plan that has unlimited minutes and Internet and put the church on that plan as a third line.

Lynn is researching to see if we can get a refund that from our bulk mailing permit.

Synod delegate – The amount for this was decreased because the convention is going to be in Duluth this year so we will not have to pay for a motel room.

Synod intent- on the proposed budget it was decreased from 8% to 4%. Lynn stated that on our report to the Synod for this coming year they would like a percentage noted as to what we plan to send to them. Discussion was held regarding paying the Synod 4% of the amount above expenses each month. Frank suggested that we decrease it to 0% and look at our budget midyear and if we are able we would send them some money at that time.

Lynn will check to be sure that we made the 2018 payment of \$2000 the church owed Memorial/Endowment.

Vanco service charge had been questioned and was found to be appropriate.

Motion was made to approve the proposed budget with the change of the Synod Intent to 0% Frank/Debbie MSC.

January 6 – proposed budget handed out.

January 13- question and answer meeting.

January 20 – Annual Meeting. Quorum for items voted on at Annual Meeting is 10% of the latest membership count.

Sale of chairs - The wooden chairs that are left in the church probably will be picked up this week. Still waiting to see if Gloria Dei Church wants the plastic chairs. The chairs that Dave repaired have all been sold.

NEW BUSINESS:

Flexible hours for Bobbie- Bobbie has stated that there are days when she does not have church work to do the full time that she is scheduled to be in the office. She would like to be able to leave on those days when she has completed her work. Pastor states that she now gets voicemail for the church on her cell phone and will be able to deal with any issues that come up if Bobbie is not at the church. Teresa was wondering if it would make it difficult for people to bring items to the church if there is not a regular schedule for when someone will be in the office. It was decided that it will be communicated to the congregation that office hours are going to be flexible and that they should call ahead of coming to the church.

Motion was made to allow flexible hours for Bobbie by Frank/Jason MSC.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

There are five council members whose first term is up: Bethany, Dave, Lynn, Linda, Ryan. Lynn and Linda said that they would run again. Council needs a total of six members.

Audit committee -Chris and Paula are at the end of their terms. There is no time limit for this committee.

Memorial/endowment - Paula is done and Chris can go one more year.

Stacy spoke with Jon who at this time is the only member of the Nominating Committee.

NEXT MEETING: January 8, 2019 at 6 o'clock

Frank stated that he will be in Arizona at that time and that it did not work well in the past for him to be on speakerphone. We will put him on speakerphone if we need him to meet quorum.

NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING: January 1 by email.

ADJOURN: Motion to adjourn at 7:31 Debbie/Jason MSC

DEVOTION/TREATS: Stacy

LORD'S PRAYER

Respectfully submitted by
Linda Newlon, Secretary