

## COUNCIL MEETING

April 13, 2021

CALLED TO ORDER: Lynn called a meeting to order at 5:37.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynn, Dave, Pastor Jim, Beth, Stacy, Deb, Jane, Linda. Frank was excused.

NON-COUNCIL: Chris Mitchell, Betty Peterson, Jason Goad, JoAnn Gustafson representing the Call Committee.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion was made to approve the agenda Deb/Stacey MSC.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CALL COMMITTEE REPORT: Chris Mitchell gave us an update on their search for a new pastor. One year ago they updated Bethesda's profile and submitted it to the Synod. Most of their meetings have been on zoom. The first candidate had eight years of experience and was not in our salary range. The second candidate decided that they did not want us to extend a call to them.

The council approved increasing to seven years of experience for a possible candidate.

At this time there is only one possible candidate available. He is currently a student and will graduate this spring. He is living in Duluth and will be in this area for the next two years as his wife is in the medical field and is here for part of her schooling. They may need to move after two years depending on where she is able to get a job once she is done with her schooling. This was the biggest negative about him, that he might be moving in two years but he also does not have much experience. The committee saw one of his sermons and a children's sermon. He has been on site. The call committee voted 5 to 2 to extend a call to him. Betty stated that she thought he was very enthusiastic and answered hard questions well. Jason stated that he had voted no because this candidate has so little experience. JoAnn stated that she feels he would bring young families back to Bethesda.

Since he has no pastoral experience he would need to have an advisory committee. Pastor Jim says that this is called Congregation Mutual Ministry Committee.

Stacy was wondering if they had indicated if they like this area. Jason replied yes, the candidate indicated they would like to be here about 5-8 years if his wife is able to get a job in this area.

He was very interested in the Faith Formation program and wants to be able to get more people involved in all areas of church activity. He has passed the background check and is aware that the call committee was going to recommend him as a candidate to the council tonight.

If this candidate is called to be our pastor it will be very important to be sure that we make his wife feel welcome to this church and this area.

The call committee is done looking for candidates at this time. They would resume the process if a call is not extended to this candidate.

A super majority, which is 2/3 of the membership of the church, is needed in order to extend a call to a candidate.

PROPERTY: David stated that one of the boilers still is not working correctly and he is trying to repair it.

CYFED: Linda reported that classes for stewardship and use of the Bible have started. The gift boxes for 13 college students were packed and mailed yesterday. There was a very good response from the congregation with monetary support and items for this project. Confirmation will be on April 25.

Senior recognition/Blessing will be on May 23.

WORSHIP: Lynn reported that with the approval from the congregation at the annual meeting on April 11 it was possible to place our order for our new keyboard and it should be here within a month.

The old keyboard will be stored in the Sing and Play room in the basement and be used for outdoor services.

We continue to have a good following online for worship.

Mary Saarela is going to donate the cost of a subscription to have our church services listed in the Pine Knot.

Confirmation will be at the in person worship service. Confirmands can each have 10 guests and pews will be reserved for them in the sanctuary. The fellowship hall and the library can be used for overflow as needed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Motion was made to accept the Secretary's Report as printed Pastor Jim/Beth MSC.

TREASURER'S REPORT : Motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed Pastor Jim/Stacy MSC.

Lynn stated that she has asked Nita to include the actual budget amount on the report.

PASTOR'S REPORT : Pastor stated that there are two confirmands. Confirmation is planned for April 25 at the in person worship service with Covid restrictions in place.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sale of 1 1/2 lots of parking- this was approved at the annual meeting on April 11. The \$25,000 will go to Memorial Committee. How the money will be used has not been decided at this time. Bethesda's Constitution states that if it is a project of \$1,500 or less the council can make a decision if it is more than that it needs to be voted on by the congregation. Lynn has notified the buyer that the congregation voted to approve the sale. The buyer stated that she is hoping to start building within a month. Lynn also informed her that the church may be interested in having the trees on our portion of lot five removed if she is going to hire someone to remove the trees on her half of the lot. It might be cost-effective to hire that person to do the whole removal project at one time.

We will check to see if the cedar trees have monetary value to someone.

Light on southeast corner of parking lot- Linda found out from the city that Bethesda is responsible for that light. The power company was informed and stated that they were writing a work ticket for that project. At this time Bobbie has not received a bill and we have not been here at night to see if the light is working. Linda will check on this and report at the next meeting.

Church service listed in Pine Knot- As stated in Lynn's report from the worship committee Mary Saarela is donating the cost for a subscription for the Pine Knot.

Basement phone- It is necessary to keep the phone very close to the charge base in order to get reception. The quilters were informed of this and a note will be placed by the charge base.

Lights on new signage that faces Highway 210- Discussed possibly using solar lights. It was decided that this will be put down as a future project and when Covid restrictions allow we may do a fundraiser.

NEW BUSINESS:

Waddell & Reed- We currently use an Independent Financial Advisor Team who is affiliated with Waddell and Reed. LPL Financial will acquire the Wealth Management business of Waddell and Reed later this year and our Independent Financial Advisor Team will now be affiliated with LPL Financial instead of Waddell and Reed. Neither the team who has been handling our investments or our investments will change, only the company with whom they are affiliated. LPL is recognized for its superior tools, technologies and services and 2020 was ranked the #1 independent broker-dealer for the 25th consecutive year. It is possible that there will be no change in the name or logo for a while.

Church Mutual- There once again had been an error in the amount of our statement. Lynn called and the error was corrected. At this time they say that they owe us \$980 credit. Lynn will be monitoring all paperwork coming from them to be sure there are no further errors. \$3,289.00 is the amount that we are supposed to be paying ( is this correct? Is this per year?)

Budget billing- This will start in April for Minnesota Power and in May for Minnesota Energy.

Executive Committee- They will start working on benefit package for the pastoral candidate.

THANK YOU: None at this time.

NEXT MEETING: May 11, 2021 at 5:30.

EXECUTIVE MEETING: May 4 via email.

ADJOURNMENT: At 6:54 motion was made to adjourn the meeting Dave/Jane MSC.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Newlon, Council Secretary

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