

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Date: August 16, 2016

Present: Pastor Cheryl, JoAnn Gustafson, Sue Frank, Jon Kolb, Sue Coady, Duane Soukkala, Jen Kuras,
Jason Goad
Theresa Vermeersch – by phone

Absent: Stacy Colich

Visitors: Sharon Bragge, Colleen Bernu, Alice Kloepfer, Linda Newlon

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Sue Frank
Devotions & opening prayer by JoAnn Gustafson
Approval of Agenda: Motion by Jen MSC Jon

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CYFM – Colleen discussed new plan for this year's faith formation:
Pre-K through 2nd grade will start on September 11, 2016.
Wednesday S.T.O.R.Y. will start on September 14, 2015

The Sunday story time will be Whirl, Wednesday will be Word & Worship. Both of these will continue through the summer months with no break as we did for Sunday school. We are not calling our program Sunday school – it will be story time. When the bonfires start up again next June, families can stay after and enjoy a time to sit by the fire and enjoy the fellowship. We will need 8 facilitators (table leaders) for Wednesday night. We do not want these to be CYFM committee members unless we need fill ins. We want this to be congregational led – involve the congregation. Nooma is self-sufficient – it recycles itself after 3 years. Whirl we can opt out of at any time.

There was a concern regarding the space in the fellowship hall if we remove the rectangular tables (for funerals). The tables are too heavy to carry back and forth. They would also have to put the chairs back out and they have enough to do when there is a funeral. They have to prepare the food, set the tables and make sure everything is ready to go. A suggestion was made to have a signup sheet like we do for lawn mowing and snow removal. How many tables will be left? We will move 5 rectangular tables out with their chairs. The round tables will be arranged with more space between them for an easier flow. A suggestion was made to use the library and Dave's old office. This area would be too small as at any time we could have up to 25 kids plus a tactile mat. There would not be enough room and would take more time to setup each time for the program. Another question was asked, when done on Sunday could we put the tables back? Probably not a good idea as they are heavy and a lot of work. We do not fill all the tables during coffee on Sunday, so removing some would not be an issue. There also is a time restraint and someone would need to clean out the library and Dave's old office. It would be easier if we could have in the fellowship hall. Pastor Cheryl stated when there is a funeral the pastor gets the call. She has a list of people to call and could just add to call someone to put tables up for the funeral. Duane has volunteered to take on this task and as soon as he gets the call, he will start the process. We need to communicate we are all busy, but we need to fulfill our faith promise to our faith community.

Property – Duane will contact Randy Schmitz about the picnic table. No more information on the pipe room.

JULY MEETING NOTES – WORSHIP

Feedback & Review:

Attendance June 5 (62), June 12 (84), June 19 (92), June 26 (54)

Seasonal Planning:

Linda will check with Loren for the Carlton Daze Polka Service

Outdoor Worship on August 7th with River of Grace.

Nursing Home/Assisted Living Services – services at Interfaith Care Center and Pine view are going well.

Worship Music planning:

Cathy Dale subbing on July 24th, August 14th & 21st

GHM Music Leader

Planning ahead:

April 2, 2017 – 1st Communion, May 7th – Confirmation

Other:

Fellowship space will be changing the table formation for the Wednesday night services

Piano in worship space – the current piano in the library may not be in tune and may cost \$80 - \$100 to tune it. Bringing it back into the worship space may cause more issues. Try moving the large wooden cross back in the space by the song board.

Projector – the projector has been ordered – projector and wires will cost about \$1,053 and the laptop will be about \$600. There may be money for some of this in the Fishers of Men budget. There is a question as to where the projector and equipment will be placed. Will it be possible to project things on the back wall so the Pastor can see it and will it be possible to project children's sermon so the congregation can see it? Also, will it be possible to project the service into the fellowship hall?

Do we need more fans and possibly in different positions in the sanctuary? Will ask property committee about this.

No thank you notes at this time.

Items for next meeting: do we need to use large wafer for intinction? Linda will talk to Pat about this and will address and report at the next meeting.

AUGUST MEETING NOTES - WORSHIP

Feedback & Review:

Attendance: July 3 (59), July 10 (70), July 17 (99), July 24 (68), July 31 (77), Aug. 7 (70)

Worship services:

Loren is scheduled for Carlton Daze next year – will need to check at the beginning of 2017 regarding his health.

Seasonal planning: Linda will put more green vines on the wooden cross at the front of the sanctuary.

Service changes presented by Colleen – CYFM:

Sunday children's story time will start at 9:00 and go until about 9:25. After this, the children will join the service in the sanctuary for the children's sermon. The children will be in the service for the remainder of the time. Colleen will lead this in the beginning, but will need to give to someone on Sunday's when she is gone.

Wednesday night services: WELCA will help with meals, discussed about getting an upright freezer to keep meals in for this service for other times. Colleen is working on music for this service as there will be no pianist. The Worship team is in agreement with the plans for the Wednesday night service and the change to the story time on Sunday for the children. We know the CYFM has put a lot of thought into these services and has done so in response to the survey and also the continuing decline in attendance at traditional Sunday school. The programs that they are offering are based on information from ELCA and seem to be the best thing to try at this time.

Nursing home and assisted living services are going well.

Communion: It was decided to continue with intinction for every Sunday. It takes less time for the people setting up and cleaning up. Pat (from the Altar Guild) reported we have had a decrease in the amount of wine and juice that is used. Linda will have Bobbie put a notice in the newsletter about continuing intinction every Sunday. If anyone has any concerns or comments please contact a member of the Worship team.

Music is planned through October 2, 2016

Thank you notes: River of Grace and Loren Lindevig

Other: Debby suggested scheduling the decorating for Christmas far enough in advance to allow more involvement. She also mentioned that she happen to notice that we have a large box ad in the telephone book for Bethesda and she is wondering if we need to continue to pay for that ad as there is also a regular line for Bethesda that we probably don't pay for or at least do not pay as much as we do for the box ad. Linda will check with Sue Coady about the cost for that and also have her check what other items we might possibly be able to eliminate from the budget.

Pastor Cheryl informed the committee on September 11th there will be a blessing of the back packs that are given from CYFM. September 18th, there will be a father/daughter baptism. On October 2nd and 9th there will be new member orientation. October 16th, Pastor Cheryl will be on vacation and worship team will need to decide if we want pulpit supply. On October 23rd there will be a service for new members. We will need to check on who will do the coffee for them at that service.

Council discussed the possibility of going back to the traditional communion on holidays such as Easter, Christmas, and Ash Wednesday.

It was also brought up we need a deeper cup for the wine and juice. It is hard to dunk the wafer in the cup because it is shallow and the wafers can easily break.

Feedback on projecting - some members of the congregation find it distracting – they do not feel right looking at the wall. Please make sure you give your feedback to the Worship committee.

Social Ministry – presented their coffee hour schedule for the year 2016 – 2017:

2016

September 18th – Welcome Home Ranch

October 16th – Breast Cancer

November 6th – Epilepsy

December 4th – Loaves and Fishes

2017

January 8th – Wycliffe Bible Translators

February 12th – Heart Association

March 19th – Damiano Center

April 2nd – Camp – change made to this one to read “a number of baskets to be auctioned off”

May 14th – 23rd Veteran (speakers Gregory Emerson and Mike Waldron)

If you have additional requests for June, July and August you can be put on the council calendar.

A motion was made to approve Social Ministry calendar by Jen MSC Duane.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Correspondence – received notice on Interfaith Annual Golf Outing on August 22nd.

Approval of May 18th meeting minutes – approved by Jon MSC Jen.

Approval of June 19th meeting minutes – approved by Duane MSC Jon with the following change:

In order to change the constitution, it needs 2 votes; (1) to approve and (1) to ratify. It has not been changed since 2000 and a lot has happened since then. The Treasure and Financial Secretary must be 2

positions. Treasure cannot be on council and have a vote due to this is a paid position. The pastor should abstain from any voting regarding themselves or what would be considered a conflict of interest. Voting members of the congregation – active members only can vote – see page 10 of the constitution. We could hold our first congregational meeting in September to approve the constitution and then ratify at the Annual meeting. The constitution will be available to the congregation July 1st. Motion to approve the constitution was made by Jen seconded by Jason – Pastor Cheryl abstained from voting. Motion was carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Approval of May Treasurer's Report – Duane MSC Jen
Approval of June Treasurer's Report – Jon MSC Jason
Approval of July Treasurer's Report – Jon MSC Jen

A question was asked "where are we at sending out notices?" A financial talk is going to be scheduled and statements will be run through August.

PASTOR'S REPORT

(1) Pastoral Acts and Responsibilities

In both June and July met with Executive, CYFM, visitation team, and worship committee. Led worship at Sunnyside and Interfaith on June 28th and August 16th. Led two acolyte training sessions and we have about 6 children from 2nd grade through middle school willing to serve. Colleen made up a schedule for the rest of the year based upon that volunteer list. Officiated at the funeral of David Axtell on July 5th. Began leading sessions on prayer practices on Wednesday evenings. Started with two participants and at the last session we had 4 attendees.

(2) Contract Tasks

a. Constitution – The proposed revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws, which have been approved by Council, are ready for the congregation's vote. The Fundraising policy seems to be misunderstood by some committee members, so it needs Council's unified clarification.
b. Visitation Team – This team is running solidly, visiting shut-ins and serve them communion, and leading worship at the local nursing care facilities on a monthly basis. They will be an asset to your new pastor.

(3) Interim Period – As you will see in the TTF's minutes, they are finalizing their report and hope to present it to Council on September 18th during worship. At that time, I will decommission the team, with our heartfelt thanks for their awesome work.

(4) Other – Pastor Cheryl took one week of vacation June 13-19 and one week of continuing education June 20 – 26.

Bobbie and Myrna continue to work on updating the membership roster. They have two lists, one of active members and one of inactive members. I recommend that once your new pastor is on board, Council may want to form a task force of members with the spiritual gift of compassion to draft a script for them to use to telephone individuals on the inactive list. The purpose of the phone calls would be to learn their status and desires about membership.

I have learned in my time here that Bethesda loves to work with other churches both ELCA and other denominations. Even though you work with Salem Mahtowa and Elim Blackhoof on youth ministries, as well as Day Camp with the Cloquet churches, I hear sadness that you are not as connected with other churches as you were in the past. I have learned from Pastor Laura Schumacher at Zion in Cloquet that they are open to working with you on ministries in addition to Day Camp. One idea is for Worship Committee to examine working with Zion on joint midweek Advent and Lent services. Zion is also wondering whether Bethesda will be participating with them on September 18th in the "Gods Work Our Hands" initiative.

Addition to Pastor Cheryl's report – October 2nd and October 9th will be new member meetings. We will welcome the new members on October 23rd.

OLD BUSINESS:

AED Update – Sue Frank met with Memorial/Endowment committee meeting and they agreed to pay for the AED machine.

Constitution – A congregational meeting is scheduled for September 18th following the service to approve the constitution. There will be no other business discussed at this meeting. A motion was made by Jason to meet on September 18th, seconded by Theresa.

Fundraising – someone provides a service for us and paying gratuity – not fund raiser i.e., wood, New Wine, Loren Lindevig. If we sell the New Wine CD's that is considered a fund raiser. Auction/baskets are fundraisers – you need to ask Pastor or Council President Sue Frank for approval. Examples will be added to the policy. Some examples are meatball supper, Easter breakfast, Christmas bazaar, Social Ministry coffee contribution (monthly), contributions to other churches. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Cheryl or Council President Sue Frank.

NEW BUSINESS

July – no meeting. A questions was asked about the council retreat and no July meeting. The council retreat can be held any time. Past practice has always been no July meeting for Council. Last year was an exception to the rule with everything going on.

Put calendar out by Bobbie's office (white board) so everything can be noted on the board and it will be easy to change.

Went into a close session at 8:03 to discuss makeup of the call committee.

Out of closed session at 8:34 PM.

NEXT MEETING: September 16, 2016 at 5:30, Executive meeting on Tuesday, August 30, 2016 at 6:00

NEXT DEVOTION, PRAYER AND TREATS: Stacy Colich

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by Jon MSC Jen followed by the Lord's Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM

Respectively submitted,

JoAnn Gustafson
Secretary

