

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: 12/23/22

The December Congregation Council Meeting was held on 12/21/22

Council Members Present: Pastor Bannister, Denise Betz, Harry Betz, Ashdon Bobbie, Carole DePue, Lisa Fritz, CJ Hamilton, Linda Morrison, Bob Muller, Shannon O'Neill, Bruce Roper, Trish Strauss, and Maryanne Sweeney

Absent: Melanie Boyer, Christine Casey

The meeting was called to order by President Harry Betz at 7:03 p.m. The scripture was offered by Chris Casey and the prayer was presented by Carole DePue.

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:

None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

*It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes from November 2022 as presented without changes. The motion was made and seconded by CJ Hamilton / Denise Betz. **MOTION CARRIED**

REPORTS:

President, Harry Betz – Attached

Pastor Bannister – Attached

Finance Committee – Attached

*It was moved and seconded to accept the Finance Committee's report as presented. The motion was made and seconded by CJ Hamilton / Denise Betz **MOTION CARRIED**

OLD BUSINESS:

- Mission and Vision Statements – The topic of new Mission and Vision statements was reviewed. Council members took turns presenting their versions and thoughts. It was agreed to have a tag line for the web site and one combined mission/vision statement. Council members were asked to submit their suggestions to the Secretary, who will consolidate and distribute them to all members for review so that at the January Council meeting this can be solidified.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Lutheran Settlement is a charity organization located in the Port Richmond area that has a food pantry and also helps people suffering from domestic violence and homelessness, among other issues. It is somewhat supported by the ELCA and they also receive donations from the area. They offered to come to St. John's to talk to us about what they do. Council agreed to have them come speak to the congregation at some point in the near future. Linda Morrison suggested that Social Ministry may be willing to help with this.
- Communications – Council recognizes that we are not getting reports from various committees. Harry explained that committees used to all meet on the same date of the month which was helpful with communication. Recognizing this is difficult to schedule, Harry suggested that only the committee chairs all meet together once a month with the hope that Council will get reports more frequently and will be better informed as to what is going on with the individual committees. Harry will be sending out an explanation and request to the chairs.
- A Motion was made to go into Executive Session. It was moved and seconded by Bob Muller / Denise Betz. **MOTION CARRIED**
- A Motion was made to come out of Executive Session. It was moved and seconded by Harry Betz / Denise Betz. **MOTION CARRIED**
- Council discussed the preliminary budget for 2023 and the final budget will be presented to council at the next Council meeting.
- Windfall Policy – St. John's was gifted a \$25,000 memorial in memory of Vern Schumacher. According to our guidelines, if we are running a deficit, 10% must be allocated towards the budget operating expenses. And 10% must go towards benevolence. Council then discussed how best to use the remaining money. CJ Hamilton and Denise Betz will come up with a proposal for the next meeting with how best to disperse the 10% that must go to benevolence.
A Motion was made to set aside the remaining funds to be used towards covering the cost of a new roof which might not be covered by fund raising for the project. If the roof fundraising covers the costs in full, Council will then further discuss how best to use the money.
It was moved and seconded by Harry Betz / CJ Hamilton. **MOTION CARRIED**
- The existing guidelines for the Memorial Garden were passed out for Council review because various people have suggested decorations for the Memorial Garden. After review, Council agreed that it would not be appropriate to have decorations in the Memorial Garden.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Constitution and Bylaws – No report
- Christian Education – No report
- Fellowship – No report
- Food Pantry Report – See report
- Memorials – No report
- Mutual Ministry – No report
- Property – See report
- Social Media – No report
- Social Ministry – No report
- Stewardship – No report
- Women’s Ministry – No report
- Worship & Music – No report

CORRESPONDENCE:

The County Corraliers submitted a request for the use of Fellowship Hall on Mondays from January 16, 2023 through May 15, 2023 from 6:45 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. for rehearsals.

The County Corraliers submitted a request for the use of Fellowship Hall for warm-up and then the Sanctuary for the performance of their Spring concert on Saturday, May 6, 2023 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The County Corraliers submitted a request for the use of Fellowship Hall on Mondays from September 11, 2023 through December 11, 2023 from 6:45 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. for rehearsals.

The County Corraliers submitted a request for the use of Fellowship Hall for warm-up and then the Sanctuary for the performance of their Winter concert on Sunday December 3, 2023 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

A Motion was made to allow the County Corraliers the use of our facility for the dates and times of all four requests listed above.

It was moved and seconded by Harry Betz / Trish Strauss. **MOTION CARRIED**

CARES AND CONCERNS:

Pastor Bo and council members shared their cares and concerns.

NEXT MEETING: Date: January 18, 2023

Scripture: CJ Hamilton

Prayer: Maryanne Sweeney

Refreshments: Chris Casey

*It was moved and seconded by Harry / CJ to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Roper