

St John's Bennington Lutheran Church

Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: Sunday July 25, 2021, After worship

Present: Jeff Seamans, Bobbi Seamans, Dan Salisbury, Deanne Kuentling, Karen Averhoff, Jim Clark, Jim Madden, Doris Madden, Mary Jane Averhoff, Cindy Mixdorf, Cassie Sage, Joyce Dedor, Roger Dedor, Bob Hansen, Joyce Hansen, Willy Wolff, Dawn Best, Larry Best, David Kuhlman, Linda Hudgins, Mrs Jim Mixdorf, Jim Mixdorf, Jerry Mixdorf, Josh Mixdorf, Gayle Wolff, Mary Ann Miller, Gary Mixdorf, Jessica Huntley, Pastor Patricia Shaw, Crystal Boyles

Meeting called to order by Jeff Seamans

1. Opening prayer by Jeff
2. Secretary's minutes by Deanne Kuentling
 - a. Approved by Jerry, second by Dawn.
3. Financial Reports:
 - a. Treasurer Report by Jeff
 - i. Check book balance: beginning of year: \$28, 332.53 6/30/21: \$40,709.97
 - ii. Savings balance: beginning of year: \$24, 465.12 6/30/21: \$24,488.46
 - b. Financial Secretary Report by Jeff
 - i. General funds: 6/29/20: \$48, 449.01 6/27/21: \$44, 875.07, down about \$4,000 from 1 year ago.
 1. Approved by Mary Jane Averhoff, second by Jessica Huntley
4. President's Report by Jeff:
 - a. Denise Pierce has been dedicating many hours to assist in calling a Pastor. She has had frequent contact with the Synod office and is carrying out a lot of work for this process. We thank her for her time and dedication.
5. Deacons Report

Dan Salisbury has nothing new to report.
6. Trustees Report

Jerry Mixdorf says the company will come back this fall to complete more work on the blacktop to include the seals and cracks.
7. Church Investments: Gary Mixdorf reported: 12/31/20: \$438, 170 Current: \$477, 990 with \$3,166 put in the scholarship fund. This is about a 10% gain.
8. LYO, Sunday School and Confirmation

Kelli Snyder, Penny Teisinger, Cassidy Fuelling, Brandy Zuck are meeting for LYO plans. The council will discuss a room that can be designated for the LYO. Kelly Snyder is the new youth leader. Bethany Anderson is the new Sunday School Superintendent. Dawn Best reported on Confirmation and has been leading the classes. She is not sure when the classes will start up this fall.
9. Old Business

- a. Jeff reported on the call committee talking with a potential part time Pastor who is relatively local. There is current discussion on time and financials. Expect another congregational meeting soon, as this develops.
- b. Jeff asked for input regarding switching from the green to cranberry hymnals. There is a potential we could purchase these new or from a congregation that may merge and want to sell them. There may be families that want to help purchase them, in the same way the green hymnals were purchased. The cranberry hymnals offer updates, new liturgy, and more variety. They came out in 2006. Many congregations have been using these for quite some time. There was also a question to determine if the cranberry hymnals come in an electronic version. Jessica will have Denise follow up on this. If audiovisual services are added (may involve the youth), this would be a supplement to the hymnals, not take their place, as some members voiced preference to use hymnals instead of the screens.

10. New Business

- a. Our constitution needs to be updated. This was done many years ago. There is a model constitution from the ELCA, last done in 2019. The was voted on by the members. There will need to be changes to our constitution. The council will begin the process of updating this.
- b. We have been using chalices for communion. There was discussion on continuing this process but consider using up the old supplies when that is appropriate. There were comments about it being meaningful to all take communion in the pew at the same time. The children could be blessed while going up with the adults who receive the chalice, depending on the Pastor's comfort level.
- c. Linda Hudgins expressed thanks for the zoom meetings.

Announcements

- a. Motion to adjourn by Gary Mixdorf, second by Dawn Best.
- b. All stood and said the Lord's Prayer.