

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
February 21, 2019

Called to order by President Tania Anderson.

Attendance:

Don Bender

Jack Paulson

Tim Kratz

Ann Ciske

Angie Chappell

Kathy Tofson-Absent with notification

Halley Marcks

Robin Kvalo-Absent with notification

Tania Anderson

Pastor Jen Johnson

Motion by Anne Ciske, second by Jack Paulson to approve Halley Marcks to fulfil the 1 year unexpired term of Cheri Gessner. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Ann Ciske, second by Jack Paulson to approve the revised agenda. Motion Carried.

Opening Devotion-Psalm 91

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Ann Ciske, second by Tim Kratz to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion Carried.

NOMINATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Angie Chappell nominated Tania Anderson for President, second by Jack Paulson.

Motion by Don Bender, second by Angie Chappell to close the nominations and approve Tania Anderson for President. Motion Carried.

Tania Anderson nominated Tim Kratz for Vice President, second by Tania Anderson.

Motion by Ann Ciske, second by Jack Paulson to close the nominations and approve Tim Kratz for Vice President. Motion Carried.

Tim Kratz nominated Angie Chappell for Secretary, second by Ann Ciske.

Motion by Tania Anderson, second by Jack Paulson to close the nominations and approve Angie Chappell for Secretary. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Property- Jack Paulson

Finance- Don Bender
Christian Education- Halley Marcks
Worship & Music- Robin Kvalo
Stewardship/Evangelism-Tania Anderson-Don said he will be on the committee along with
Kathy Tolfson and Ann Ciske
Local & Global-Ann Ciske- Kathy Tolfson a member on the committee

PASTOR REPORT

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Janice, Barb, and Denise are working together to reorganize the finances of the congregation.

Office hours are consistently covered by staff and the occasional volunteer.

Barb and Denise have given the office, meeting rooms, and copy room makeovers that are efficient and inviting.

Barb is including offering and attendance stats in the weekly bulletin and Chimes, as requested.

Jerry is back from vacation.

PASTORAL:

I've made hospital, home, and nursing home visits this month. Funeral on Friday, 2/22 for Dottie von Trott.

Meet and Greet visits are becoming rare. I do have 1 in the scheduling process, though.

RENEWAL:

Our February meeting with the Synod Renewal Pastors has been canceled due to weather.

Mark Teslik and I have our Renewal Mutual Ministry Team assembled and are organizing our first meeting.

EDUCATION:

I discovered confirmation curriculum in the "new" file cabinet in the high school room. With the input of the confirmation partners I will review and implement as needed.

The current confirmation project is setting up prayer stations for Lent. This project combines biblical interpretation, application, prayer, inclusiveness, autonomy, teamwork, and a dose of fun. Each grade is responsible for 2 stations that will be available to all beginning March 6 and up through Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday the confirmation students will be taking the Sunday School students through the stations as the SS lesson for the day.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Computer for office- there has been about \$310 donated. Other individuals have offered to donate as well. The cost will be covered by donations, Ann is collecting.

2. Office position duties and assignments- this has been revamped by office staff.

3. Bills- the committee went over all bills, we are current. No transfers were needed for January.
4. Treasurer- Dan M. has resigned as treasurer, we will be looking for a replacement, possibly a volunteer.
5. Financial Secretary- Denise is transitioning into the role.
6. Memorials- Judy Traut has come up with a letter for families making memorial donations. It gives suggestions for things needed within the church. We are looking for council approval on the letter.

March 27th Council Lenten Supper

Jen stated that she has gone to Portage National to get answers about authorizations and changes needed. Names need to be changed on several accounts including credit cards. Executive Committee needs to go with Janice and Barb to the bank.

Motion by Tim Kratz, second by Angie Chappell to make Don Bender and Tim Kratz signatories on the checking account. Motion Carried.

Motion by Tim Kratz, second by Ann Ciske to make Barb Rothwell, Denise Derey, Del Molden and Jen Johnson as authorized users of the church credit card. Motion Carried.

Motion by Ann Ciske, second by Halley Marcks to make Barb Rothwell, Denise Derey and Janice Peterson to be authorized users of the online bill pay. Motion Carried.

Tania talked about a letter drafted by Judy Trout, to give to people giving memorials, that gives suggestions of where they could designate it to.

Motion by Ann Ciske, second by Halley Marcks to approve the drafted letter for memorial/donations to the church. Motion Carried.

The treasurer has resigned, staff drafted a document defining who is doing what. The staff needs someone to help with closing out at the end of each month with Auditing balance sheets, Review expenditures, Income assignments and writing checks for non-online payments.

Tania will get quotes for a quarterly overview as an option to a Treasurer. She will also post it to the members.

Tania discussed money from the Script funds and where it is to be designated.

Motion by Angie Chappell, second by Tim Kratz to move \$9,000.00 from the Undesignated Script Funds to savings. Motion Carried.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Megan Jahoda and Julie Saalsa are organizing a youth fundraiser, the second annual Trivia Night. This year, it is being planned for the evening of Saturday, April 27th at the Masonic Temple in Portage (formerly The Vino). This event will be very similar to the event last year. Any costs for the event will be taken care of with current available youth funds, with proceeds benefiting the youth programs.

Action Item: We would like council to approve the Trivia Night youth fundraiser as presented.

Motion by Ann Ciske, second by Halley Marcks to approve the Youth Group Trivia Night for April 27, 2019. Motion Carried.

Megan has also submitted information to council about a mission trip opportunity to the Dominican Republic. To be discussed at council.

STEWARDSHIP/EVANGELISM

We are going to be working on a calendar for the year with Stewardship & Evangelism events.

There will be an ecumenical meeting on March 17th with representatives from St. Mary's, Potage United Methodist Church and the Portage Presbyterian Church. We will be discussing the ecumenical community supper in the fall and a possible summer series of ecumenical worship services. For the summer worship services, each church would host a service. Many of the details are yet to be determined.

Action Item: We would like council to approve BLC participating in the ecumenical community supper and the ecumenical summer worship services. As a participant in the ecumenical worship services, BLC would agree to host one service.

Motion by Ann Ciske, second by Don Bender to approve Bethlehem to participate in ecumenical activities. Motion Carried.

Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast will be Sunday, May 5th.

Motion by Ann Ciske, second by Halley Marcks to approve the council sponsored Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast. Motion Carried.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Members Present: Dan K, Nancy, Pastor Jen and Carla

Absent: Robin, Pam, Ginny, Kris

Devotions: Pastor Jen

Pastor's Report

The youth will be setting up prayer stations for Lent.

Old Business:

none

New Business: No specific w/m meeting as items discussed with the entire group.

Carla announced that she will be having surgery and will not be able to play the organ for Lent. Several people recommended who could play the Holden Evening prayer service for the Weds Lenten services. Carla will check with Kris first. Book fair for the month of March. Megan Jahoda is back and is helping with the youth. May 19th will be the last day of Sunday School. Discussion about issues with the sound system. Tanya will contact Josh Brandsma and set up a time for Carla, Dan and Tanya to meet with him to check the sound system. Carla announced that she was closer to selling the organ pipes in storage. Discussion concerning Easter breakfast.

Pastor Jen recommended that money for the breakfast come out of the pastor's account. Tanya will ask Wade if he will be willing to cook for the breakfast. Dan reported that the praise team will be doing the service in March. Carla reported that Kris was going to reach out to some of the youth in the congregation to ask them to sing with the choir for Easter and attempt to have them become more involved with the music at church.

Motion by Ann Ciske, second by Jack Paulson to approve an Easter Brunch after service, funded by the church, with suggested donations day of. Motion Carried.

PROPERTY

Del is working on the inventory list.

LOCAL & GLOBAL

No report submitted. Ann is working on an Earth Day date.

Motion by Tim Kratz, second by Don Bender to approve the committee reports as submitted and discussed. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Barb asked if the council meetings could be moved to the 2nd week of the month due to the Chimes due date. Discussion that this is not possible and we will adjust what goes in to it.

Council's night for Lenten supper is March 27th.

Sound board is getting looked at.

Tim Kratz stated that the Post Prom will be using the fellowship hall on March 10th from 10-4.

Pastor would like to install the council on March 10, 2019.

Motion by Don Bender, second by Ann Ciske to Adjourn. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 6:30 PM.