

## **CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES**

Date: 5/16/24

The May Congregation Council Meeting was held on 5/15/24

**Council Members Present:** Pastor Bannister, Ashdon Bobbie, Melanie Boyer, Alan Divver, CJ Hamilton, Bob Muller, Shannon O'Neill, Barbara Quinn, Bruce Roper, Carol Schlegel, Jenn Shaw, Tom Smith, Maryanne Sweeney, Ken Woods, and Louise Woods.

**Absent:** Kiran Bodamer, Anna Sweeney

The meeting was called to order by Ashdon Bobbie at 7:00 p.m. The scripture was read by CJ Hamilton and the prayer was offered by Pastor Bo.

### **PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:**

None

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

\*It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes from April 2024 as presented without changes. The motion was made and seconded by Ken Woods / Barbar Quinn. **MOTION CARRIED**

### **REPORTS:**

President, Bob Muller –Attached

Pastor Bannister – Attached

Attendance – Attached

Finance Committee – Attached. Carol Schlegel will talk to the congregation this weekend to give them an update. The audit is complete and Finance will meet next Tuesday to review the recommendations. Finance is working very aggressively at reducing expenses and have managed to reduce them by about \$1,000 per month so far. Ken Woods has been soliciting bids from other trash removal companies.

\*It was moved and seconded to accept the Finance Committee's report as presented. The motion was made and seconded by Shannon O'Neill / Alan Divver. **MOTION CARRIED**

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- 75th Anniversary Update – Shannon O’Neill reported that the plant sale raised about \$700. The Ice Cream Social event will be in July with a dunking booth planned for President Bob Muller and Pastor Bo. The actual celebration will be on September 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 5:00. The menu has been picked, decorations and invitations to the community are now being discussed. A yard sale and a Christmas bazaar are two events being discussed as possible fund raisers for the church. Shannon would like to see this committee continue and to work with Fellowship for event planning.
- Welcome Team Update – nothing to report.
- Office Roof Updates – Most of it has been paid for. We still need \$7,000 to finish payment.
- Continuing Resolutions – nothing to report.
- Volunteer Training – Another training class will be held in June.
- Cleaners Schedule – This is now down to three days a week, beginning last week.
- ELCA Account – This has been closed out.
- Hatboro Community Cupboard Account – This will be taken care of at the end of May.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

In the President’s report Bob asked Council members to write down committees they are on. He would like to see as much involvement from the Council Members as possible. He would also like to see the Counting Teams grow from two to at least three teams, and ideally four. This would allow more timely posting of our cash.

Bob had a Congregation Property Use Resources form and responsibilities to be filled out by organizations using our facility. It was passed out for council members’ review.

Proposed Capital Expenditure Process – Carol Schlegel attached a copy of this process to the meeting agenda. Its purpose is to get policies and procedures in place which was suggested by the audit. Carol has reviewed with the auditor. She walked council through the proposed procedure and the reasoning behind it.

A motion was made to accept the Proposed Capital Expenditure Process. It was moved and seconded by Finance / Bob Muller - MOTION CARRIED

The issue of outside people using St John’s dumpsters for their own trash was brought up and discussed. The Property Committee will bring the issue up at their next meeting.

Shannon suggested that the Weekly Announcements be organized by topics without dates and topics with dates to help simplify updating.

Bob Muller asked if we need to mail envelopes to all members. While discussing, it was brought up that Finance uses names not numbers, so the envelopes in the pews should work for anyone

that would like to use them. Ashdon will see how much they are costing us. If we pursue stopping them (or at least to some members) Council will explain the idea to the congregation, and the reasoning behind it, and using the envelopes in the pews and/or help them to sign up for electronic giving. Tom Smith pointed out that the mailed envelopes have different funds listed on them. Pew envelopes don't have categories but we could explain to people that if they want their giving to go to someplace specific to write it on the envelope.

Carol pointed out that we are paying fees for electronic giving and text to give on the website.

Tom Smith asked where we stand on an updated members list – name/number/address/phone. A form is ready to go once we have a timeline. We will work on this over the summer to have it ready for fall.

Tom Smith asked that the pictures on the wall in the hallway be updated.

Bob Muller and Carol Schlegel have been looking at upgrading our internet.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Community Outreach Ministry – No report
- Constitution and Bylaws – No report
- Fellowship – No report
- Hatboro Community Cupboard – See report. Carol explained that donations have been down recently, and the number of families served has been creeping up. Bob Muller will look into helping with milk pickup. Rolling Harvest will be starting in June and the Pantry will need a new driver to pick up produce this year. CJ may be able to help.
- Kids & Family Ministry – No report, as they did not meet in April. Shannon O'Neill gave a verbal report. Another safety meeting is planned for June 12<sup>th</sup>. They are also working on a signup sheet for VBS. Signups for the Ice Cream Social in July will be going up too. The committee will be giving out bibles to the kids. They are also working on a set schedule for volunteers for Sunday School.
- Memorials – No report
- Mutual Ministry – No report
- Property – See report. Ken Woods asked why the Property Report and its details are not posted for the general congregation. Ashdon will be sure the monthly Property Report will be posted on the web site. A hard copy will also be posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Carol Schlegel asked our insurance company about liability regarding snow removal. There is a concern that we cannot pay for every minor snowfall. The insurance company explained that we would be covered in the event that we were sued due to snow/ice not being removed in a timely fashion just as we would if someone had an issue on our property that wasn't snow or ice related. She also spoke to her personal plow guy about obtaining a quote. He can offer different packages based on what the customer wants. She suggested that the Property Committee look at what service we really need/want and look for (or request) that service only.

- Social Media – No report
- Stewardship – No report
- Women’s Ministry – No report
- Worship & Music – See report – Tom Smith said that VBS volunteers will also need to go through the safety training.

Pastor Bo is putting together a Funeral Plan that families can go over and fill out regarding what they would like in a funeral service. This will be going out in the narthex.

Pastor Bo will be on vacation June 8/9 and June 22/23. Linda DiMeo will be covering for him but there will be no communion during those services.

AV volunteers are still needed.

The Brad Fox concert will be held on September 8<sup>th</sup> this year.

The VBS Parent Program (kids show) will be on July 11 at 6:00 p.m. Bob encourages Council Members to attend.

The Pasta Dinner raised close to \$500 this year, and was considered a success.

A Motion was made that we suspend Council for the month of July. It was moved and seconded by Bob Muller/Tom Smith. **MOTION CARRIED**

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Carol Schlegel would like to use the building August 19<sup>th</sup> for the Montgomery County Anti-Hunger Network.

A motion was made to approve the use of Fellowship Hall on August 19<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00 for the Montgomery County Anti-Hunger Network. It was moved and seconded by Bob Muller / Pastor Bo. **MOTION CARRIED**

### **CARES AND CONCERNS:**

Pastor Bo and council members shared their cares and concerns.

### **NEXT MEETING: Date: 6/19/24**

Meeting Leader: Jenn Shaw

Scripture: Alan Divver

Prayer: Ashdon Bobbie

Refreshments: Barbara Quinn

\*It was moved and seconded by Bob Muller / CJ Hamilton to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Roper