

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: 2/20/22

The February Congregation Council Meeting was held on 2/16/22

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

Absent:

None

The meeting was called to order by President Harry Betz at 7:00 p.m. The scripture was read by Denise Betz and the prayer was offered by Harry Betz.

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:

None

WELCOME NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Ashdon Bobbie, Melanie Boyer, CJ Hamilton, Maryanne Sweeney

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

*The minutes from January 2022 were approved with changes. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes with corrections by CJ Hamilton / Denise Betz

MOTION CARRIED

*The minutes from the 2022 Annual meeting were approved with changes. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes with corrections by Linda Morrison / Trish Strauss

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS:

President, Harry Betz –Attached

Pastor Bannister – Attached

Finance Committee – Harry explained the January Financial reports were not ready in time for this meeting but this issue is being addressed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Meeting Recap – All agreed this year’s annual meeting went well and were all very appreciative of Denise Betz’s hard work this past year.

Parsonage Update – Harry Betz explained that the parsonage is currently empty and that part of the church was built on the parsonage’s ground. The deed would need to be amended to allow the church to sit on the property prior to selling the property. This situation is still being considered on how best to proceed. Possible remodeling options to the parsonage were also discussed.

Church Membership Form - A membership form will be sent out to all known active members to get correct and updated information in an effort to develop a complete and up-to-date database of information for the current congregation. Melanie Boyer brought up the possibility of also doing this electronically in addition to using a paper form.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council Protocols and Expectations – President Betz explained that all committee chairs will attend the March Council meeting to explain what their committee does and what it is responsible for. Harry strongly recommended every council member be on at least one committee and asked all council members to think about joining one if they have not already. Additionally, he asked everyone to consider helping in other ways such as being greeters, readers, Sunday school teachers, etc. Harry is planning to give the congregation a recap of the Council meetings each Sunday after the Council meetings. Maryanne Sweeney suggested we also put Sunday school registration out again to be sure everyone knows that it is up and running again. Denise Betz suggested also posting a sign-up sheet so that people can easily sign up and it will be more visible to people.

Accounting and Church Database proposal from Finance – Harry Betz explained that current financial statements have not been timely and that this is unacceptable. Bob Muller had suggested Aplos software. Finance has been looking into this system. This system could tie several systems currently being used independently into one system that communicates with all accounts. Harry spoke with the company and spoke with a church that is currently using this system and they love it, highlighting their customer service. It will cost \$1,000 to have them help us with the conversion which the other church said is money very well spent and they think it is the best software they have ever used. Our cost will be approximately \$165/month for our needs. We can either pay \$165/month or a discounted rate of \$1,800 up front (\$150/month) for the year, in addition to the \$1,000 set-up cost.

A motion was made from the Finance Committee that we move to Aplos software for all database and accounting needs for the cost of \$1,000 for the conversion and \$1,800 for the first year. It was moved and seconded by the Finance Committee / Bob Muller.

MOTION CARRIED

Bob asked if this is more or less than the costs of our current systems and Harry said he believes this will actually be a savings in cost in addition to the ease and efficiency of use.

Memorials – Harry Betz spoke to the need of a committee to reorganize and plan for how to handle memorial funds going forward so that the monies are tracked and accounted for. Again, the new software should help moving forward. Carole DePue and Denise Betz volunteered to be on the committee.

Church Protocols – With regard to Covid precautions, Harry Betz suggested we begin to think about if/how we want to change protocols. The PCR rate spiked earlier this year but is now dropping dramatically again. He said that the Executive Committee discussed this topic last Thursday and they do not think the current guidelines necessarily apply. Worship and Music has been asked to think about what we want to do and how we want to track the situation regarding protocols and he asked Council to think about it for next month when Worship and Music hopefully gives us their recommendations.

Three-Year Plan – Harry passed out a possible 3-year plan for St John's from 2015 and asked Council members to start thinking about how we would like to see this church three years from now and how we get there.

75 Year Anniversary – The 75th anniversary of St John's will be in two years. Harry Betz would like us to start thinking about how we would like to celebrate the milestone so we can begin planning now.

Vice President Bob Muller brought up St John's Day. He would like us to start planning now for it to be successful. Combining Rally Day and St John's Day was discussed. The Sunday after Labor Day was suggested and discussed as a date for the event, as well as the Sunday after that.

Bob Muller brought up that many members do not know who is on council. The hallway pictures will be updated as well as posted on the website with a brief bio. Lisa Fritz volunteered to take the pictures of the Council members at the next meeting.

Bob Muller told Council members that he can assign separate church email addresses to anyone on Council if they would like.

Bob showed council members a device called Listen which allows people with hearing difficulties to hear the service through these devices. Currently, we only have three devices. Another option is streaming the services over wifi so that people can listen via their phones. This, however, would require an additional investment. Hopefully, the sound has improved enough recently that this is not a huge issue, but Bob would like people to know that we do currently have the three Listen devices if anyone would like to use them.

Bob Muller said that we currently have \$80,000 in our bank account that is Food Pantry money, not the church's money. He clarified that this organization is not St John's Food Pantry, but rather the Food Pantry at St John's. Bob suggested that the Food Pantry have its own board made up by members of all three churches involved in the Food Pantry, as well as HatPacks, to run the pantry and separate the finances from St John's. This proposal would need to be introduced to the other churches and HatPacks as well. Bob will move forward with Alan Eickhoff to start the process.

A sheet with potential banners for Easter week was passed around for Council members to look at and consider.

A Motion was made for Michele Muller and Pastor Bo to purchase up to four banners for Easter week, at a cost of \$95 each. It was moved and seconded by Bob Muller / Trish Strauss

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Constitution and Bylaws – No report
- Christian Education – See report – Ashdon also gave a verbal update of the report and added that there will also be an Easter Egg hunt for the children again this year.
- Fellowship – No report
- Food Pantry Report - See report
- Memorials – No report
- Mutual Ministry – No report
- Property - See report – Bob Muller also pointed out that the Property Committee will be testing the fire alarm system on a monthly basis.
- Social Media – No report
- Social Ministry – No report
- Stewardship – No report
- Women’s Ministry – No report
- Worship & Music – No report

CORRESPONDENCE:

Denise Betz submitted an application for use of fellowship hall on Sunday, March 27th from 12:00-4:00 p.m. for baby shower. The application was approved.

CARES AND CONCERNS:

Pastor Bo and council members shared their cares and concerns.

NEXT MEETING: Date: 3/16/22

Scripture: Carole DePue

Prayer: Trish Strauss

Refreshments: Melanie Boyer

*It was moved and seconded by Bob Muller / CJ Hamilton to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Roper