

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: 1/29/26

The January Congregation Council Meeting was held on 1/21/26

**Council Members Present:** Pastor Bannister, Carolyn Cutilli, Alan Divver, Barbara Quinn, Bruce Roper, Carol Schlegel, Jenn Shaw, Ken Woods, and Louise Woods.

**Absent:** Ashdon Bobbie, Kiran Bodamer, Anna Sweeney, Janice Vallone, Mark Vallone

The meeting was called to order by President Alan Divver at 6:09 p.m. The scripture was read by Pastor Bo and the prayer was offered by Jenn Shaw.

### PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:

Joe Kircher – As head of the Constitution and Bylaws committee, Joe spoke to Council regarding updates that were made to the Constitution and Bylaws documents. Joe explained that last year neither the Constitution and Bylaws committee nor Council saw the final version prior to it being presented to Council. Walt Reller and the rest of the committee, Cathy Bart, Carolyn Cutilli, Joe Kircher, Bruce Roper and Tom Smith, went through the documents again so that they could correct or revise anything they felt was necessary.

Also, the churchwide assembly made changes to the Constitution this past summer.

Joe explained that the phrases in the Constitution with an asterisk in front of it cannot be changed.

Any changes made by the committee were in **bold** and *italicized* to make it easy for Council to review. Joe paged through the documents with Council, explaining any changes that were made.

A motion was made to accept the revised versions of both the Constitution and the Bylaws as presented.

It was moved and seconded by Ken Woods / Carolyn Cutilli. **MOTION CARRIED**

Alan will bring this up under New Business at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

### MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

\*It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes from December 2025 as presented without changes. The motion was made and seconded by Jenn Shaw / Carol Schlegel.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **REPORTS:**

Pastor Bannister – None. Pastor said that he has been busy with family matters, but he is doing well. There have been a couple funerals this past month.

President, Alan Divver –Attached. Overall attendance for Christmas was down.

Attendance – Attached

Finance Committee – Attached. Carol said that she was encouraged with November finances and was optimistic for December. But both giving and attendance were down for the month of December. Consequently, we ended the year with a \$15,000 deficit.

We had several large bills, paying \$12,000 to the Synod and \$4,200 for insurance.

The Finance committee continues to do everything they can to minimize our expenses and our debt, but our giving is down and consequently income is as well.

Bo would like to try harder to reach out to everyone to see where people are at by making calls every week. This often results in the people starting to come again. Carol agrees that when Bo says it, it carries more weight and is more able to influence people's behavior.

Bo informed us that he is taking a class regarding creative fundraising.

Alan asked if it's church wide that people are giving less, or is it less people giving. Carol should be able to run a report through Aplos to figure that out.

Overall, for 2025, attendance was up but giving was down.

\*It was moved and seconded to accept the Finance Committee's report as presented. The motion was made and seconded by Bruce Roper / Ken Woods. **MOTION CARRIED**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Community Outreach Ministry – No report
- Constitution and Bylaws – No report, see person addressing council above
- Fellowship Connections – No report
- Generosity Committee – No report
- Hatboro Community Cupboard – See report – Carol explained that Montgomery County is committed to the food pantries and they were approved for another grant because of the SNAP suspension. Pantries have been helping each other and businesses and individuals have been overwhelming with their donations. The food pantry overall is in very good shape and very well stocked.

- Kids & Family Ministry – See report – They are still planning to have a spaghetti/pasta dinner but do not have enough kids signed up yet to volunteer. The weather may also be a factor.

Lenton family night will be on Ash Wednesday at 6:00 pm with service at 7:00 pm.

- Memorials – No report
- Mutual Ministry – No report
- Property – See report – The Property committee will be painting Fellowship Hall Saturday 2/7 beginning at 9:00 am and continuing Sunday afternoon 2/8 as needed. Weight Watchers will be notified to meet in an alternative location.

Alan asked about the heater situation and Ken said that it has been good, although gas is still being smelled on occasion. It seems to smell more at the top of the stairwell than in the actual boiler room. PECO came again to check. But they again checked the boiler room only.

Property also needs to meet with Reagan cleaning regarding making toilet paper dispensers uniform and adding trash cans.

Parsonage inspection is required by our insurance company and Darren will be getting a form together so that this can be done and turned into the insurance company as soon as possible.

- Social Media – No report
- Stewardship – No report
- Women's Ministry – No report
- Worship & Music – See report

### **ON GOING:**

- Vitality Survey – This is still open. Alan emailed Rev Manson for how many have been filled out. 64 as of the beginning of January. He is asking the office to send out another email and use the Annual Meeting as one last push. He will also clarify that all individuals should do it, not just one per family.

- Mission Insight – Alan also emailed Rev Manson. It will be set up through the office.

- Insurance Liability for Outside Groups – Carol explained that the County Choraliers are having trouble getting insurance and were looking to her for help. She explained to them why they need it and that it's a requirement by our insurance company. Council agreed that we must insist that they get the needed insurance before they start meeting again, which will be coming up soon.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Schneiders Funeral Home has requested a new key to the building. Ken and/or Daren will try to track one down for them.
- Council Nominations – Several names were suggested as potential members to ask to join Council. Bo will follow up with them.
- Congregational Meeting – Alan briefly went over what we would like to speak about, including the Vitality Survey
- All Committee Meeting –The next meeting is being scheduled for Monday 2/23 at 6:30 in the sanctuary. Alan will get communication out to the committees.
- A Zoom Service was suggested for snow days. Pastor would send out the link via email by the end of the week. It will be a basic service. When to make an announcement for service cancellations due to inclement weather was discussed. Saturday service announcement will be by 1:00 on Saturday, Sunday service announcement for service will be by 6:00 a.m. and will be on Facebook and our web site.
- Pastor Bo would like to change his compensation to increase his housing allowance and have his salary decreased by the same amount. His goals for the year are also on the back of the form. Council approved the change and the President and Secretary, as well as Pastor have to sign the request form.

A motion was made to approve the salary changes for Pastor Bo as described above. It was moved and seconded by Barbara Quinn / Ken Woods. **MOTION CARRIED**

- Carol and Pastor Bo have been working on a complete and accurate list of membership for households and active members.

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

## **CARES, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS:**

Pastor Bo and council members shared their cares, concerns and celebrations.