

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: 11/26/23

The November Congregation Council Meeting was held on 11/15/23

Council Members Present: Pastor Bannister, Harry Betz, Melanie Boyer, Christine Casey, Alan Divver, CJ Hamilton, Bob Muller, Shannon O'Neill, Bruce Roper, Jen Shaw, Tom Smith, Trish Strauss, and Maryanne Sweeney

Absent: Ashdon Bobbie, Linda Morrison, Barbara Quinn

The meeting was called to order by Maryanne Sweeney at 7:00 p.m. The scripture was read by CJ Hamilton and the prayer was offered by Pastor Bannister

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:

Bob Campman, Scout Troop leader

Bob Campman spoke to the Council about the value of scouting. He said that 40-45 scouts total make up his troop and that they are involved in service to the community. There are several Eagle Scouts and they are in charge of their activities which often benefit the community and churches in the area.

Bob is looking to establish a relationship with St John's and asking that we sponsor their charter/troop. He explained, that although they meet at Lehman Methodist church in Hatboro, due to changed guidelines, Lehman can no longer sponsor them.

They would need one person with St John's to be a Chartered Organization Rep (COR). He also went through a handout that was distributed which explains the organization, BSA insurance, and policies.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

*It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes from October 2023 as presented without changes. The motion was made and seconded by Trish Strauss/ Jen Shaw. **MOTION CARRIED**

REPORTS:

President, Bob Muller – Bob gave a verbal report highlighting the upcoming call meeting for Pastor Bo

Pastor Bannister – Attached

Attendance – Attached

Finance Committee – Attached. Harry Betz also gave a verbal update. Both income and expenses are lower than expected. Attendance has been slightly up.

*It was moved and seconded to accept the Finance Committee's report as presented. The motion was made and seconded by Finance Committee / Bob Muller. **MOTION CARRIED**

OLD BUSINESS:

- 75th Anniversary Update – Shannon O'Neill did not have an update since their last meeting. However, another meeting is scheduled for later this month. Bob Muller asked if there would be alcohol served at the event and Council briefly discussed utilizing a cash bar.
- Electronic Sign Update – no update
- Trespassing Issues & No Trespassing Signs – Cars have been in the parking lot again recently and Bob Muller will be following up as necessary. No trespassers have been noticed on the property lately.
- PECO Audit Update – PECO does not audit commercial businesses. Harry Betz will ask PECO about metering the food pantry separately from the church.
Bulbs are now LEDs.
PECO quoted \$24,000 to replace all the light fixtures in the building.
- Pastor Call Date – see President's report
- Welcome Team – no update
- Christmas Caroling – Alan Divver gave a verbal update. Sign-up sheets have been developed and will be posted within the church. Sun Dec 17th was the suggested date.

NEW BUSINESS:

- BSA Sponsorship – see above – Council discussed. Timeline, BSA would like to move forward, however it is not urgent. It was suggested that we double check our insurance policies to assure we are indemnified by the BSA.

A motion was made for Troop 81 B and G to be chartered by St John's. It was moved and seconded by Trish Strauss /Alan Divver. **MOTION CARRIED**

- Office Roof - \$48,000 was quoted to the Property Committee to replace the roof over the Office area of the building which is in disrepair. The CIA account has about \$11,000 in the current account. Harry Betz will be addressing the congregation regarding fund raising to pay for the project.

A motion was made to have Property move forward to having the roof repaired as soon as possible. It was moved and seconded by Bob Muller / CJ Hamilton. **MOTION CARRIED**

- Congregation By-Laws – separate documents were distributed –Council was asked that members review the By-Laws so that any changes or updates can be included in the next

annual meeting. In particular, review of the number of individuals required for voting in a new pastor, releasing a paster, what constitutes a voting member, adding on-line voting, as well as anything else that should be updated/changed.

- Harry Betz brought up that someone came to the building who had nowhere to stay the night and was looking for a hostel. A policy is needed for how to handle someone in need. FISH in Doylestown provides emergency assistance to people in need when no other timely assistance is available. It was discussed to possibly partner with them. It was decided that we should invite a representative from FISH to speak to the congregation.
- Bob Muller brought up council members; that some will be leaving at the end of their term, and that we would like a youth representative on Council too.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Community Outreach Ministry – No report – Melanie gave a verbal update that they will have a giving tree which will be supporting the Breathing Room, which helps families affected by cancer, Valley Youth House in Warminster, which gives youth between the ages of 13 and 19 a safe place to live, and A Woman’s Place, which helps women and children in domestic violence situations.
- Constitution and Bylaws – No report
- Fellowship – No report
- Hatboro Community Cupboard –See report
- Kids & Family Ministry – No report, Shannon O’Neill gave a verbal update highlighting current projects.
- Memorials – No report
- Mutual Ministry – No report
- Property –See report
- Social Media – No report
- Stewardship – No report
- Women’s Ministry – No report
- Worship & Music –See report

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

CARES AND CONCERNS:

Pastor Bo and council members shared their cares and concerns.

NEXT MEETING: Date: 12/20/23

Meeting Leader: Alan Divver
Scripture: Jenn Shaw
Prayer: Harry Betz
Refreshments: Shannon O'Neill

*It was moved and seconded by CJ Hamilton / Bob Muller to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Roper