

## **CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES**

Date: 1/6/2024

The December Congregation Council Meeting was held on 12/20/23

**Council Members Present:** Pastor Bannister, Harry Betz, Ashdon Bobbie, Melanie Boyer, Christine Casey, Alan Divver, CJ Hamilton, Linda Morrison, Bob Muller, Shannon O'Neill, Barbara Quinn, Bruce Roper, Jenn Shaw, Tom Smith, Trish Strauss, and Maryanne Sweeney

### **Absent:**

None

The meeting was called to order by Alan Divver at 7:00 p.m. The scripture was read by Jenn Shaw and the prayer was offered by Harry Betz.

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

None

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

\*It was moved and seconded to accept the Council minutes from November 2023 and the Call Vote minutes as presented without changes. The motion was made and seconded by Harry Betz / CJ Hamilton. **MOTION CARRIED**

### **REPORTS:**

President, Bob Muller –Attached

Pastor Bannister – Attached

Attendance – Attached. Harry Betz and Ashdon Bobbie pointed out that the weekly average attendance is up by 28 additional attendees.  
next year.

Finance Committee – Attached. Harry explained that November was a good month for income and December is tracking well. Expenses have declined which also contributed to making November numbers look good. The proposed 2024 budget will be presented to Council at the January meeting.

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

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Update – Shannon O’Neill will have a meeting this month. The actual date will be decided upon and announcements will start to appear in the bulletin. They are also planning fund raisers for the event.
- Electronic Sign Update – no update
- Trespassing Issues & No Trespassing Signs – permanent signs have been put up in the parking lot.
- Welcome Team – The welcome team will be forming to welcome and follow up when new people attend.
- BSA Sponsorship Update – Bob said that all papers have been signed and returned to the troop. Bob Muller is currently the church representative.
- Office Roof Updates – Bob Muller reported that \$52,000 is the current quote for the roof repair.
- New Council Members – Potential new council members were discussed. Also, the need to get a youth and young adult members onto the Council team.
- PECO – Harry Betz gave Council an update that they have a program that does not cost anything to redo some of the lighting in the church. He will follow-up with both PECO and the Property Committee.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Our current credit card is through TD Bank under Harry’s SS#. The ELCA offers a credit card account so Harry will be obtaining new credit cards for the church through them. Pastor, the office, and Michael will get the new cards.
- Bob Muller also pointed out that the Finance committee will need to find a new check writer
- A motion was made to go into Executive Session. It was moved and seconded by Bob Muller / CJ Hamilton.
- A motion was made to come out of Executive Session. It was moved and seconded by Bob Muller / Harry Betz.
- Congregation By-Laws & Constitutional Changes – Bob explained that some parts we can change, some parts we cannot. Some parts also had multiple listings that we could select from. Selections were made based on current practices and excess paragraphs/phrasing were taken out. It will now go back to our Constitution and By-Laws committee for approval/review. Bob is also addressing the numbers required for removal/calling of a pastor and the mortgage. Council discussed and proposed thoughts of if and how to update our by-laws if we want to do so. After discussion, Council agreed a quorum would be considered as the average weekend attendance for last 12 months. 50% to be a quorum for a regular meeting or a mortgage and 75% to call or removal of a Pastor.

- Continuing Resolutions – (committees and outside organizations) Bob Muller recommended we continue to do continuing resolutions for standing committees. Bob said we will do continuing resolutions at next month's meeting. And include BSA Troop 81 and Cub Scout Pack 17.
- Parsonage Basement – (sump pump, see notes under Property Report below)
- We will lose two counters when the Betz's leave. Bob would like to see the counting teams meet weekly.
- Bob Muller brought up that we have a Deacon at St John's and would like Linda DiMeo to be recognized as our Deacon and list her among our staff. Pastor will follow-up with her.
- Harry passed out a questionnaire from our auditor to all Council members. To be completed and mailed back to the address printed within the questionnaire.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Community Outreach Ministry – No report
- Constitution and Bylaws – No report
- Fellowship – No report
- Hatboro Community Cupboard – See report
- Kids & Family Ministry – No report
- Memorials – No report
- Mutual Ministry – No report
- Property – See report. Also, Bob spoke about the sump pump failure which caused the basement to flood. Bob also mentioned that there is some incorrect plumbing that will need to be addressed. CJ explained that the yard service came and cleaned the roof/gutters.
- Social Media – No report
- Stewardship – No report
- Women's Ministry – No report
- Worship & Music – See report – Bob asked about locking the back doors mentioned in the report. Pastor explained that it is to assure nobody sneaks into the building to stay overnight. The length of the services was also discussed as well as possible ways to keep them from becoming overly long.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Synod asking for nominations for the 2024 SE Synod Assembly, delegates are needed. A bishop will be chosen at the meeting which will be held May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

An application to use facility has been received from the American Red Cross to use Fellowship Hall on Wednesday February 28<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-8:00 pm, which was approved.

Troop 81 to hold a Court of Honor Ceremony on 1/21/24 from 4:00-8:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Approved.

County Choraliers would like to use the sanctuary for their concert on May 18<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-8:45 for a group of 20 plus audience. They would also like to use Fellowship Hall for practices on Monday evenings from 7:30-9:00 from January through May 2024. Approved.

**CARES AND CONCERNS:**

Pastor Bo and council members shared their cares and concerns.

**NEXT MEETING: Date: January 17,2024**

Meeting Leader: Bob Muller

Scripture: Pastor Bo

Prayer: Jenn Shaw

Refreshments: CJ Hamilton

\*It was moved and seconded by Harry / ck to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Roper