

Minutes for Meeting of Congregational Council, April 24, 2022

Jay called the meeting to order at 11:11 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Present were Linda Libey, Gail King, Jay Crone, John Anstrom, Pastor Monica, Carolyn Howard, Teresa Cassell, Ed Vigen and Elaine Belay. Andy Hansbrough and Karl Pedersen were not present.

- 1) Devotions-Ed led devotions based on 1 Kings, chapter 16, "The Lord is in the silence," and reminded us to listen for the silence.
- 2) Approving the Agenda-Carolyn added an item to Unfinished Business to discuss possible dates for our strategic planning meeting in August. It was noted that Elaine is now reporting on the Von Bora House since it has moved to the social ministry committee's oversight (item 4 d). Carolyn moved and Elaine seconded a motion to approve the agenda as revised. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3) Consent Agenda-A question arose about why new choir robes are not going to be purchased. Linda reported that our present choir robes are in good condition and new individual ones can be bought if needed since the present style is still in the catalog. \$3,000 of the designated \$15,000 from the Wilson bequest will be available for robe repairs/replacements, and we will redirect the remaining \$12,000 to a new audio system for the sanctuary (see 5 c. in New Business). Carolyn moved and Linda seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda and the motion passed unanimously.
- 4) Unfinished Business-
 - a) Financials: We are a little behind in meeting the \$25,700 needed each month. We decided to remind members to stay faithful in giving through the summer months.
 - b) COVID update-The COVID task force has not met recently since things have seemed to stabilize. The council recommends that offering bags be passed by the ushers beginning as soon as possible. We discussed the possibility of having outside worship once a month in the summer months and will suggest that to the worship and music committee for their next meeting.
 - c) Organ Maintenance Update: The organ is due for a tuning in May. Gail will contact our tuner to find out when she is planning to come.
 - d) Von Bora Haus: A new family has moved in! Fortress Foundation Solutions was scheduled to have completed the water remediation work in the basement the week of April 18.
 - e) Seminary Debt Reduction Team: Nothing to report.
 - f) Capital Campaign 2.0: After some discussion we decided it would be appropriate to wait until after our strategic planning meeting in August to finalize a committee to oversee this campaign. We named some potential committee members and Pastor Monica will check with them about their willingness to serve.
 - g) Accompanist Search Update: A formal offer to Amy Cowan to be our choir director is being prepared. An audition of an accompanist candidate is scheduled for May 4.
 - h) RIC flag permanent display: Nothing new to report.
 - i) Sanctuary Lighting Conversion to LEDs (Bell Electric): Our new lights will be installed on May 2nd, all in one day!
 - j) The Rainbow Connection at Roanoke PRIDE in the Park (May 1): We will have a booth and will share brochures and magnets advertising our new program. The cost of magnets and printing will be about \$1100, which will come from our RIC and The Well budget lines. Pastor Monica reported that Mandy Newman from Edges Methodist ministry wants to coordinate with us on The Rainbow Connection.
 - k) Approved Bylaws final process with VA Synod: The Synod has approved our bylaws so we have completed the process.
 - l) Strategic Planning Meeting in August: After some discussion we decided that our first choice for this meeting is Sunday, August 28, after worship. Carolyn will check with her preferred leader to see if she is available.

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- 5) New Business
 - a) Little Hokie Hangout carpet replacement: After discussion the council agreed that we want to replace the carpet with luxury vinyl. We will pay for LHH to purchase area rugs as they see fit. Funds will be paid by the \$9624 available in rent funds. Any cost overage will come from the capital campaign fund and be repaid with future rent money. Ed moved we move forward with this proposal and Carolyn seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. This work will probably be done in August when the LHH is on a break. The council expressed sincere appreciation to Ed for doing the background work for this project.
 - b) Personnel Committee Chair Recruitment: Some possibilities were named and Pastor Monica will ask if they are willing to serve.
 - c) Wilson Bequest Modification: New Audio System: We need a new sound board for the sanctuary because we have maxed out the old one. Diane Catley agreed that \$12,000 allotted for new choir robes be instead used for paying for a new system that would provide 8-10 wireless microphones and a component rack. Pastor Monica is waiting for an estimate from the same company that installed the sound system in the fellowship hall.
 - d) Safe Child Policy for Brown Insurance: We need to have a written Safe Child Policy to reduce our insurance rates. Teresa will check with VICCC to see their policy and we will draft a written policy with help from Leah Wechtaluk McFarren.
- 6) Action Items and Assignments
 - a) Unfinished business and general orders for future meetings
 - i. August 2022 Strategic Planning retreat for congregational leadership prior to budget (May 2022)
 - ii. Fellowship Hall Furnishings Ad Hoc Committee (TBD) Marcia Barrow
- 7) Closing Prayer -Pastor Monica closed the meeting with a prayer at 12:37 pm.

Next Meeting-11:30-1:00 pm, May 22, 2022-Devotions: Elaine Belay