

Minutes for Meeting of Congregational Council, May 22, 2022

Jay called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

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

- 1) Devotions-Elaine led devotions based on Psalm 92, practicing gratitude even in difficult times. She told us how she and Ron are grateful for an “angel” who helped them when they had a flat tire in a remote area.
- 2) Approving the Agenda-Pastor Monica added an item to new business that will become 5e. Andy moved and Carolyn seconded a motion to approve the agenda as revised. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3) Consent Agenda-Andy moved and Jay seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda and the motion passed unanimously.
- 4) Unfinished Business-
 - a) Financials: We are on track financially. Thanks be to God!
 - b) COVID update-Andy reported that the COVID task force continues to recommend wearing masks. Cyclists participating in a ride to benefit persons with Multiple Sclerosis will stay overnight in the campus center June 6-7. LMLC will provide dinner for them on Monday night.
 - c) Organ Maintenance Update: The organ will be tuned May 24. A third evaluation of the organ will be done by Ashley Hammond on May 29. We will pay him \$500 for his assessment.
 - d) Von Bora Haus: Elaine reported that a family with 5 people is in the house. A new quilt made by our quilting group was blessed in worship this morning and will be given to the family. Fortress Foundation Solutions has completed the water remediation.
 - e) Seminary Debt Reduction Team: We now have 3 members on this team: Bill Knocke, Jennifer Freeman, and Elizabeth Grant. Terry Hagman will join them in a meeting to get them started on their work.
 - f) Capital Campaign 2.0: Nothing to report at this point.
 - g) Accompanist Search Update: The personnel committee is in the process of interviewing and checking references for the choir director and accompanist positions..
 - h) Sanctuary Lighting Conversion to LEDs (Bell Electric): Our new lights have been installed.
 - i) Little Hokie Hangout carpet replacement-Ed reported that he has just received the third proposal for replacing the carpet with vinyl and will evaluate all three proposals before recommending one. Glenn Buss has removed the old stage in the room with the piano. A big thanks to Glenn for his work and to Ed for investigating options for the vinyl replacing the carpet.
 - j) Personnel Committee Chair recruitment-Pastor Monica reported that Don Holmstrom has accepted this position. Thank you, Don!
 - k) Wilson Bequest Modification: New Audio System-Pastor Monica will have a meeting with Diane Catley to discuss details of the money disbursement. Pastor Monica has not yet received an estimate from the audio system company.
 - l) Safe Child Policy for Brown Insurance-Leah Wechtaluk Mcfarren is working with us to develop this policy using a draft from another insurance provider as an example. The revised proposal will be sent to Council for approval. Brown Insurance is requiring that this be completed by September 1st.
- 5) New Business
 - a) Mary Korslund Bequest: \$30,000, unstipulated. It was noted that Mary’s interests included music and food and nutrition.
 - b) Ben Blanchard Bequest: \$10,373 interest (annual), unstipulated. For items (a) and (b) it was noted that 10% of all such donations automatically go into the Mission Endowment fund. After

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some discussion, Pastor Monica moved and Karl seconded a motion to place the remaining funds in the Rainy Day Fund and ask the Finance Committee for their advice on how the funds could be best used, being mindful of Mary Korslund's interests. The motion passed unanimously. John will communicate this information to the finance committee.

- c) LHH Blinds replacement-Ed reported that the LHH staff has requested that the window blinds in their "large room" be replaced. The existing blinds are in bad shape and do not block the sun properly for cooling purposes and darkening the room for nap time. Ed will meet with someone from Interiors Unlimited to take measurements and get an estimate for new blinds. The LHH staff also noted a need for painting to be done. Ed also reported that he has recently become aware that rent money received from LHH has been going into the General Treasury since 2020 when the Council voted to put it there during difficult financial times. After some discussion Carolyn moved and Gail seconded a motion to begin escrowing LHH rent in a designated LHH Repairs line item to provide money for future LHH needs, effective May, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.
- d) Implicit Bias Workshop: Pastor Monica worked with Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick, Assistant to Bishop Bob Humphrey, to develop an implicit bias workshop. They presented it to the Synod Deans and the Bishop has asked all clergy and church councils to receive this training. We will do this in the fall.
- e) Pastor Monica reported that her recent bout with COVID has affected her breathing and stamina. She asked that we be willing to help out as needed with her tasks. Jay suggested that Pastor Monica and Marcia make a list of things that can be done by others so we can assist as much as possible.

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
Carolyn is working on scheduling a presenter.
 - ii. Fellowship Hall Furnishings Ad Hoc Committee (TBD) Marcia Barrow

7) Closing Prayer -Pastor Monica closed the meeting with a prayer.

Next Meeting-11:30-1:00 pm, June 19, 2022-Devotions: Gail King