

## Minutes for Meeting of Congregational Council, October 23, 2022

Jay called the meeting to order at 11:55 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Present were Jay Crone, Carolyn Howard, Pastor Monica, Gail King, Andy Hansbrough, Ed Vigen, Teresa Cassell, Linda Libey and Karl Pedersen. Bill Knocke joined us to discuss the 2023 spending plan.

- 1) Karl led devotions based on Psalm 24 and Psalm 51 with the theme of “clean hands and pure heart.”
- 2) Approving the Agenda-Carolyn moved and Linda seconded a motion to approve the agenda and the motion passed unanimously.
- 3) Consent Agenda-Andy called our attention to the recommendation to boost our Facebook page for a month for \$20 to see what impact it has. There is money in the Evangelism budget to cover this cost. Council affirmed this recommendation. Andy moved and Gail seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda and the motion passed unanimously.
- 4)
  - a) Financials: Bill Knocke reported that nothing stood out in the September financials.
  - b) COVID-19 Task Force: Nothing new to report. .
  - c) Organ Maintenance Evaluation: Grooms and Payne have been notified that they can proceed with plans for the organ repairs, beginning with the most critical needs. Kelly will work these into their schedule.
  - d) Seminary Debt Reduction: Pastor Monica has applied for loan forgiveness from the Federal Government. Andy suggested we postpone further discussion about this to our December meeting.
  - e) Policy for Children and Vulnerable Populations: Our draft proposal has been sent to our lawyer Greg Campbell for his review.
  - f) Capital Campaign 2.0: This topic will be explored at our next Planning Meeting on November 13th.
  - g) Property Update: Ed and Glenn Buss have completed the installation of new banner rods in the sanctuary to allow banners to be changed safely. Ed reported that the electric line has been installed for the new water heater for the Little Hokie Hangout and he is working with a plumber to schedule the water heater installation. The rest of the new flooring will be installed on January 3.
- 4) New Business-
  - a) Designated gift to restore 2022 Benevolences: An anonymous donor has covered the 10% our benevolence amounts were reduced earlier in the year, thereby covering all benevolences to the original amounts in our spending plan.
  - b) Review of Proposed 2023 Ministry Funding Plan: The VA Synod requested an increase to the benevolence amount we pay to them. We had not increased this amount for several years. Pastor Monica moved and Linda seconded a motion to increase our contribution to the Synod to \$40,000 for 2023. The motion passed unanimously. The Synod also recommended increases for pastoral and staff compensation (1.75% step and 3% cost of living increase for pastors and 1.75% increase in total compensation for Marcia and Michael). Carolyn moved and Andy seconded a motion to provide these salary increases, and the motion passed unanimously.
  - c) Nominating Committee for New Council Members: Three people have agreed to be on the council ballot. We are looking for other LMLC members willing to serve in this way.
  - d) Agenda for the November 13th Annual Meeting: Pastor Monica and Jay will work together to set the agenda.
  - e) Stewardship Campaign 2023 Pledge Drive: The pledge drive has been very successful. We are thankful for members' generous support.
  - f) The Well: (Pastor Libby was ill and was not able to be at the meeting.) Carolyn reported that the book study on *Beyond Shame* in conjunction with Wesley and UKirk was cancelled because no students from any of the campus ministries were participating. Campus Ministry Sunday was observed today at worship and 4 students participated in the service.

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- g) Luther's Luscious Lunches (L Cubed): Due to lack of student participation these are cancelled for the rest of this semester. A decision for next semester will be made in February. i.
  - h) Holiday Brass Concert and Reception: A free concert will be held at LMLC on Saturday, December 10th. We will serve cookies made by LMLC members at the reception.
  - i) Advent Soup Supper on December 7 at 6 p.m. We will ask members to provide soup.
- 6) Pastor Monica closed the meeting with a prayer.