

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
January 13, 2022 - at 5:00 p.m.**

In Attendance: Mike Doering, Ruth Johnson, Kathy Neill, Staza Pany, Gwen Dunteman, Pastor Yolanda, Donna Brown, Nathan Oliver

Absent: Melissa Binnall, James Hintermeister, Vicar Molly

Guest: Lynn Wilson

I. Council meeting was called to order at 5:13 p.m. by President Mike Doering

II. PASTORAL UPDATES/RECOGNITIONS

- A. **Devotion and Prayer:** Pastor Yolanda led the council in devotion and prayer using the book "Jesus Calling."
- B. **Boundaries Training Workshop** - Pastor Yolanda attended the training which is a requirement every 3 years.
- C. **Ended the budget for 2021 in the black** - many thanks to all the congregation members who made generous donations to make this happen. FLC is very grateful to end the budget for 2021 in the black.
- D. **Outgoing Council Members** - Pastor Yolanda expressed her deepest gratitude to all the outgoing council members for all their dedication and hard work. Outgoing members are Ruth Johnson, Kathy Neill and Gwen Dunteman. Mike Doering will continue as an At Large council member as the outgoing president.
- E. **Vicar Molly** - working on internship projects. Attending the Clinical Pastoral Education Program (CPE) which is a 12-month intensive program. Pastor Yolanda expressed how proud she is of Vicar Molly and her dedication to her internship. Adult Spirit Art begins on January 23, 2022.

III. AGENDA REVIEW

Agenda was reviewed with additional items being added. A motion was made by Staza to approve the revised agenda; seconded by Gwen. Motion carried.

IV. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Minutes from the December Council meeting were reviewed with no changes requested. Motion to approve the minutes Ruth, seconded by Staza. Motion carried.

V. GUEST & OPEN FORUM

VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mike Doering expressed his thanks and appreciation to all council members. Especially during COVID, many hard and difficult issues and trying times.

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT/BUDGET DISCUSSION

Treasurer's Report: Review of December 2021 Financials

a. Review & Approval of Treasurer's Report

- i. The December General Fund income was \$10,418 vs. actual expenses.
- ii. The December Mortgage Fund income was (\$482) vs. expenses.
- iii. Actual comparisons YTD with General Funds and Mortgage Funds combined:
 1. 2020: \$17,670
 2. 2021: \$4,431
- iv. General fund checking is \$9,161

The budget numbers for 2021 ended up in the black, thanks to many generous congregation members. With the last sprint at the end of the month, we ended with a net income of \$1,309 and a balance of \$9,161 in the checking account. The remaining Designated Funds will be transferred to the general fund. Motion was made by Gwen to approve the Treasurer's report for December 2021 and the proposed 2022 budget that will be presented to the congregation for approval at our annual meeting on January 23, 2022; seconded by Ruth. Motion carried.

Pastor Yolanda and the Council expressed our deepest gratitude to Staza for all her dedication and hard work balancing the 2021 budget and preparing the 2022 budget.

VIII. AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2021 - received the audit committee report from the audit committee with some recommendations to consider.

1. Noticed that the office administrator who processes payroll also signs all the payroll checks. They recommended that going forward that the President or Treasurer should sign the office administrator payroll check.
2. Pastor Yolanda and the council discussed other ways to protect the office administrator. They suggested that a running monthly total of expenses being paid out should be approved by the council.
3. Audit of FLC's books have traditionally been performed by volunteers from the congregation. They recommended that at least once every 5 years that a thorough audit be conducted by an independent CPA.

Pastor Yolanda suggested that we could ask other churches in the area to audit our books and we in turn would audit their books.

4. Audit Committee felt that it would be beneficial to have one member of the church council assigned to the Audit Committee.

This would not be allowed according to our Constitution/By-Laws.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. ELCA Congregation Lead Initiative Grant

Members - the team will be having their first meeting with a coach on January 31, 2022.

The coach will work with the team to be successful in this endeavor. The team consists of Pastor Yolanda, Vicar Molly, Nathan Oliver, and Shannon Borst.

- B. Next steps** - they will learn about the other 49 churches that were selected. Have 2-3 days of training. The first training will be via Zoom and the next meeting they will fly to Chicago with all expenses paid to attend the meeting with the other 49 churches selected. As one can imagine our Pastor Yolanda is pretty excited about being chosen as one of the 50 churches.
- C. Nominating Report** - many council positions have been filled but we are still looking for a Vice President, two At Large and 1 youth council member.
- D. Updating Constitution and By-Laws** - to update to the new model Constitutions and By-laws, congregations are asked to visit the ELCA website and notify the ELCA office so that a resource person (committee member) can work with the congregation to make sure everyone understands the process. Mike will follow-up and work with the ELCA resource person to update our Constitution and By-laws to the new model.

X. MISSION TEAM REPORTS

A. Adult Education - Ruth Johnson

Adult spirit art with Vicar Molly on January 23, 2022. Ruth will post more information on our Facebook page. Bible study will pause until March resume from March - June and then resume again in September. These scheduled breaks are due to not many people attending during the summer and winter months.

B. Altar Care Team - Gwen Dunteman

C. Budget and Finance - Staza Pany

See Treasurer's report and budget discussion.

D. Facility Care/Review - James Hintermeister

E. Children, Youth, and Family Team - Melissa Binnall

Sunday School/Grapple - we don't have many children attending Sunday School. Sunday School teachers will meet to discuss options.

Confirmation/Senior High - going very well. The youth are loving the variety of activities.

Faith in Action - next week some of the youth will be going to a person's house to help clean the house and the remaining youth will be heading over to Shepherd of Grace Senior Community Housing to design and paint various objects in the snow for the Seniors.

Safe Haven - the committee has no meetings scheduled.

F. Home Visitation - Gwen Dunteman

G. Hospitality Team - Kathy Neill

Going well but need volunteers to help serve on Sunday mornings during Fellowship hour.

H. Mission and Outreach Team - Mike Doering & Pastor Yolanda

This will be merged into the ELCA Congregation Lead Initiative Grant Team.

I. Mutual Ministry Team - Ruth Johnson

No meetings lately. Discussed having meetings every 2 months.

J. Music & Worship/Communication & Technology - Nathan Oliver

This team is keeping very busy. January 18, 2022, the ELCA will observe an annual day of repentance for racism. This date is observed by several organizations as the National Day of Racial Healing to encourage acts of service and raise awareness of racial justice. Our worship service will be observing and honoring this day.

K. Stewardship Team

Pastor Yolanda is grateful to all the congregation members for their generous donations so we could end this year (2021) in the black. Giving has increased \$40,000 since COVID.

L. Women of Faith (WELCA) - Lynn Wilson

FLC has had many baptisms in 2021. The Women of Faith (WELCA) have purchased and paid for the baptismal supplies and the gifts in the gift bags. They have also purchased and paid for communion supplies.

In the Fall of 2021, the Great River Conference was held at Salem Lutheran Church on October 2, 2021. There was a meeting, a speaker, and a luncheon.

WELCA had a very successful Fall Craft/Bake Sale in November. Thank you to everyone who helped to make it such a success. From the 34 plus vendors to the customers from FLC and beyond, and everyone in between who setup, made the food, worked during the sale, and cleaned up after. WELCA says, "Thank You !! we couldn't have done it without all of you."

As a reminder all women who are members of Faith Lutheran Church are encouraged and welcomed to come to a meeting or call the church office if you would like more information. All women of FLC (ELCA) are automatically members of the Women of Faith.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. COVID Vaccination Clinic** - Pastor Yolanda was contacted by Sherburne County Health and Human Services to see if FLC would be willing to host a COVID vaccination clinic. Council discussed and agreed to have them host a vaccination clinic at FLC. Pastor Yolanda will contact them and let them know. Motion was made by Kathy to have Sherburne County Health and Human Services have their vaccination clinic at FLC; seconded by Gwen. Motion carried.

- B. **Hybrid Annual Meeting** - this year's annual meeting will a hybrid meeting. Congregation members are encouraged to attend in person, or they also have the option to take part online via Zoom.
- C. **Council Self-Care** - Mike Doering expressed concerned about council members getting burned out and wants to find a way to make their jobs easier during this difficult time.
- D. **Star - Facebook Fundraiser** - Mike Doering suggested to the council that we might want to check into the Star fundraiser. Council discussed the options and decided we need more information on how it works, costs, etc. Mike will get more information and update the council at the next meeting.
- E. **Nominating Committee for 2023** - 2023 nominating committee will be this year's outgoing council members Ruth Johnson, Sandy Engdahl, Kathy Neill and Gwen Dunteman.
- F. **Becker Community Guide** - the Patriot Newspaper will be publishing the Discover Guide in February. This popular magazine will feature local community events, businesses, parks, city maps and editorials, with distribution in Becker. Council discussed the options and costs. Motion was made by Ruth to pay \$310 out of the dedicated funds for a fourth of a page in color in the Becker Community Guide; seconded by Staza. Motion carried.
- G. **Becker Chamber Event** - this monthly event will be focusing on networking and getting to know your fellow chamber members better. The event is held at Charlie's Sports Bar and Grill on Wednesday, January 19, 2020, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Nathan, Pastor Yolanda, and Vicar Molly will attend. Motion was made by Ruth to pay the fee for this event out of the dedicated funds; seconded by Gwen. Motion carried.
- H. **Expo** - discussed the Business Expo and Craft Fair to be held on February 26, 2022, in the Becker Field House from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We would need volunteers to come forward to make this happen. Motion was made by Ruth that if we have volunteers and the funds that FLC would be interested in having a booth at the Expo and Craft Fair; seconded by Gwen. Motion carried.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Next meeting on Thursday, February 10, 2022, at 5 p.m.
Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Gwen; seconded by Kathy at 6:51 p.m.