

Congregational Council Meeting

October 23, 2018

Luther Library, 7:00 P.M.

Members Present

Ernie Atkins, President
Jason Green, Vice President
Rita Foringer
Pastor Phyllis Milton
Todd Pfahl
Dan Singer
Aaron Sutherland
Garth Wallis
Barry Zorumski

Michael Canny, Congregational Secretary
Dawn Lomax, Treasurer

Members Excused

Allison Phillips

Guests

Paula Jones, Trustee
Rick Graves, Administrator
Linda Robinson, Head of School
Peggy Sipes, Pastor's Executive Assistant

Call To Order

Ernie called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Opening Devotions

Pastor Milton gave opening devotions from 1 Corinthians, 15-19 and Psalm 126

Old Business

Review of Minutes

Pastor Milton requested a minor correction regarding her section. Motion was made by Rita, seconded and carried to approve minutes with change.

Financial Reports Review: (Rick Graves)

Report was difficult to generate due to issues regarding deposits and reconciliations, which were only resolved within the past day. One deposit had to be completely reconstructed due to issues with the bank. We have had only minor issues prior to this past month.

Offerings are off by 5.53 % for the first quarter in comparison to the same period last year. There have been some savings in expenses, but they do not make up for the shortfall. Next quarter will have increased expenses connected with Christmas season, but could also include increased year end giving (for tax purposes.)

Paula Jones asked if we needed to say anything to the congregation yet. She has been approached by persons who had questions about decisions made for the current budget. Rick pointed out that there had been more than adequate opportunity for people to ask questions during the budget process and at the Congregational meeting, but nobody had raised any issues. The consensus was that this was not necessary right now. Rita said that Pastor Milton's sermon last Sunday was on point, that we needed to have faith and trust.

Motion was made by Rita, seconded and carried to accept reports as submitted.

Treasurer Comments: (Dawn Lomax)

Nothing to add

Sunrise House Update:

Some payment has been received from the VA, although much more remains outstanding.

Stewardship: (Garth Wallis)

This is the last week of the stewardship campaign—cards are to be turned in Sunday, with a deadline of October 31. Follow up will be determined after results of initial submissions can be assessed. Rita suggested that Council, as opposed to the Committee, do the follow up; consensus was to wait and see how much follow up activity was necessary and allow the committee to make a recommendation. Only Rick and Peggy see the cards, from which Rick makes projections regarding funding. Pastor Milton asked if there was differentiation from those who had not pledged and those who had responded but could not afford to do so. Rick said yes, that the response from those unable to pledge was designated with a zero. Cards will also be available in the pews on Sunday for anyone who might not have received one.

The Mansion and Harris Creek Properties: (Rick)

Electrical issue at the Harris Creek house was easily rectified at minimal expense. Rick has sent a demand letter to the contractor for the HVAC system at the Mansion and is awaiting response.

Shepherd/Visitation:

Ernie encouraged everyone to maintain contact with their various groups and try to attend functions periodically.

Nave Doors:

Pastor Milton reported that the only estimate received so far was approximately \$10,000, which all agreed was not feasible. We are awaiting estimates from two other companies. Ernie suggested that we look at the possibility of repair as opposed to total replacement; Pastor said that would also be pursued. The doors receive no sunlight, and are completely rotted at the bottom.

New Business:

Generator:

Ernie discussed information received from Mike Riley central to the kitchen generator. During the last storm it was determined that while the generator adequately powered the refrigerators and freezers, it did not have enough capacity to supply power to the kitchen stove exhaust fan unit. This situation will not allow the kitchen to be used as a hot food source if needed to supply the community. Consideration regarding the purchase of a larger capacity generator will be discussed during the next budget session.

Christmas Season:

Brochure was distributed with activities outlined, starting with the Hanging of the Greens on 11/30. The usual three services are scheduled for Christmas Eve, with lessons and Carols scheduled for 12/30. There was some discussion regarding the Christmas Eve breakfast which we have had in the past. Pastor Milton said that this needed to be put back on the entity that had hosted it—the Men’s Breakfast Group—to see if they wanted to do it. She and others were concerned that people might not want to come out in the morning for breakfast and then come back in the evening, and she did not want the staff tasked with the additional event. The men’s Breakfast Group is currently very small, and the location which had been used in the past, the Elks Lodge on Tide Mill Lane, has been sold.

Church Access:

Rita noted that the sidewalks in front of the church were hazardous to navigate for those using a walker or otherwise physically restricted, because of the tree roots that have created cracks. She suggested that the Staff lot behind the church be reserved for handicapped people on Sundays. Jason said it would be easy to get a sign or two to put out there on Sundays to so designate the lot, but that we needed to give everyone plenty of notice. Rita made a motion that this be done, beginning in December. Motion was seconded and carried.

Shepherding Reports

Ernie reviewed the responsibilities of the various categories, and said he would be E-mailing out an updated version of the Organization Chart shortly.

Worship: (Jason Green)

No issues at this time

Christian Education/Youth: (Barry and Allison)

Dan mentioned that he now needed to use the nursery on occasion, and those who are staffing it are often arriving at the last minute, when the parents need to be already seated in the church or preparing for their part in worship activities. Pastor Milton advised that she would address that issue.

Barry said that the Cub Scout Troop was small, but that the Boy Scout Troop had approximately 30 boys, which is customary, and that the Girl Scouts are “bursting at the seams.”

Care & Bible Studies: (Rita and Dan)

Doing well, no issues at this time.

Community Fellowship: (Aaron)

Fish Fry went well, with 255 tickets sold and revenues of \$1967; expenditures were just over \$1200, so the profit realized would be about \$725. Hanging of the Greens planning has begun.

School Operations: (Ernie)

Linda Robinson reported that Things are going well—first quarter is almost over. There are four openings left in the additional two-year old class, but there are two sets of parents scheduled to come and look, so Linda anticipates that this number will decrease. Kenny Hurt has resigned and a new director of buildings and grounds (John Lowe) has been hired. His “fresh eyes” have already resulted in several issues being noted and addressed. She asked that we give John some extra lead time to prepare for events while he becomes acclimated.

Committees and Elder Care: (Garth)

Call Committee is continuing their work. A nominating Committee will need to be formed to address the two Council positions that come up in 2019. We also need three people with accounting or business backgrounds to serve on an Audit Committee.

Pastoral Perspectives: (Pastor Milton)

Pastor encourages all members of Council to find some way to become involved with worship.

Her section in the upcoming newsletter will encourage everyone to address some challenging questions, such as the changing demographics of our church; this interim period is a good time to examine such issues. She suggested that we consider some Focus Groups to facilitate these types of discussions.

Adjournment:

8:30 P.M.

Next Meeting:

November 27, 2018, 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Canny
Congregational Secretary