

Council Minutes

January 21, 2021

Present: Anne Baunach, Nick Brinkmeyer, Dave Carlsen, Dave Foss, Rev Chuck Harris, Christi Gillette, Rev Susan Kirlin-Hackett, Mike McLaughlin, Savannah Phelan, Charlie Radabaugh, Janene Nelson, and Sandi Wollum

Absent: Josh Luebke

Gathering Time

- **Call to Order**
Charlie called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.
- **Opening Devotion / Prayer**
Mike shared a devotion.
- **Adoption of Agenda**
Motion to approve the agenda as written. (Brinkmeyer / Harris) Motion passed.
- **Approval of Minutes: December 17, 2020**
Motion to approve the minutes as presented. (Gillette / Brinkmeyer) Motion passed.
- **Financial Report**
Janene gave an update on financials. December again was a very good month. Receipts were just over \$73,913, and expenses were just over \$53,299. The variance was \$20,613 to the positive. Motion to accept the financial report. Janene shared that they are going to clean up account balances. There is a credit balance for the old copier as well as a few small miscellaneous account balances. Our budget for 2021 does not balance. We need to leave approximately \$6,772 in the general fund so that we have a balanced budget. With a strong year and the PPP loan, \$83,077 will go into the general fund reserve. (Brinkmeyer / Wollum) Motion passed.

Reflection on Mission, Vision & Core Values

- **In Person Worship Service**
Some of the schools are starting to open. Right now, Auburn is looking to open on February 22. We will continue to monitor as our parameters are quite different than the school district. It will also help that those are 65 years of age and older will be eligible for vaccines starting next week. The council asked that the staff begin building a plan and parameters for opening but that it is too soon at this time to start to talk about dates. Chuck reminded the group that the plan cannot be “staffed” on Sunday morning by the church staff as they are all engaged in worship and so we need to look for some council members and other volunteers to help implement the plan. He also shared that the synod made the decision to make the synod assembly virtual this year in May. Finally, he shared that worship as we know it will look very different when we get back together. We will not be able to do corporate singing nor can we commune together. This will impact the broadcast service as well. Chuck asked the council to think about what would be most important to do in person first – worship, fellowship, or acts of service.
- **Annual Meeting**
Chuck shared that information has been going out to people about how to connect to the annual meeting. This went through Constant Contact as well as by mail to those without internet. The agenda is very simple this year. We need to finalize who is running for Council and the Endowment. The church office is also gathering annual reports from any groups in the church who would like to submit him. We will have

them on the website until March and then will bundle them up in both an electronic and printed copy. Anne will finalize a copy of the budget presentation so that it can be sent out prior to the annual meeting.

- **Nominations for Council and Endowment**

Charlie is finalizing asking potential nominees for council. Ross Chamberlain and Mary Berglund are both re-running for the endowment committee as their terms are coming up.

- **Transition Team**

The transition team has been meeting. They are going to do some surveying of the congregation during February. They will spend March reviewing and digesting and hope to wrap up the process by April 1. We will need to identify seven people for a call committee by April. This would be for six committee members and one alternate.

Accountability

- **For the Good of Messiah**

- Nick shared a Bible that he was given recently from 1882.
- Christi's boss shared that at 9:21:21 it will be the 21st second of the 21st minute of the 21st hour of the 21st day of the 21st year in the 21st century.
- Christi asked for prayers for Maren who is dealing with a nasty concussion after a ski accident.
- Pastor Susan shared with Charlie and Pastor Chuck that she is graciously declining the gift of two extra weeks and will be available during that time to support any thing that comes up.
- Pastor Chuck shared that they modified the schedule for the time off slightly so that the staff members with kids off the 3rd week of February will take the second and third weeks of February off when their kids are off school. The rest of the staff will be off the first two weeks of the month.

- **Pastors' Reports**

Pastor Chuck shared that he is focused on the annual meeting. Pastor Susan submitted a written report.

Implement Our Mission & Ministry

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Sending

- **Review of Assignment & Tasks**

- Council members are to send Chuck an email letting him know what they think would be most important to do in person first – worship, fellowship or acts of service.
- Charlie is going to call a couple more people to finalize nominations for council.
- Charlie asked the council to think about potential members for the call committee.
- Charlie asked Pastor Chuck to again remind people that we are seeking potential council nominees.

- **Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn the meeting. (Baunach / Gillette). Motion carried.

- **Lord's Prayer**

- Mike led the group in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Baunach
Council Secretary