

Council Minutes

December 15, 2022

Present: Anne Baunach, Dave Foss, Rev. Chuck Harris, Rev. Bridget Jones, Rev. Susan Kirlin-Hackett, Sheila McLaughlin, Janene Nelson, and Charlie Radabaugh

Absent: Dan Fergusson, Jonathan Baunach, Josh Luebke, and Lauren Mendez

Gathering Time

- **Call to Order**
Anne called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.
- **Book Study**
Pastor Bridget led the group in conversations around Chapters 4 & 5 of One Coin Found.
- **Adoption of Agenda**
Motion to approve the agenda as presented. (Nelson/McLaughlin). Motion passed.
- **Approval of Minutes: November 17, 2022**
Motion to approve the minutes as presented. (Nelson/Harris). Motion passed.
- **Financial Report**
Receipts: \$60,962. Disbursements: \$55,569 including rent of \$7,900. Difference: \$5,393 (note positive). It is looking like we will end the year within budget.
Motion to approve the financial report as presented (Harris/McLaughlin). Motion passed.

Reflection on Mission, Vision & Core Values

- **Stewardship Campaign**
Chuck provided an update. We now have 90 statements of intent. Last year, we were at 101 in early January. The dollars in the pledges are very encouraging. Generally, we've had a good stewardship drive.
- **Budget**
With what we had received with statements of intent last week and estimating those who had not pledged, we still have a variance of about \$78,000 to the negative. We continue to look for ways to address the deficit. We are looking at a 2% raise to the staff – this is the first raise in 5 years. Pastor Chuck would not be at synod minimums. Pastor Bridget would be. Janene is wondering what we can do to help increase the giving. We are at double the loss that we were at last year. We will need to do some follow-on campaigns. Our goal is to increase giving pledges by at least \$40,000.
- **New Council Members**
We have potential council members: Shannon Spicciati and Ryan Monsen. We are still looking for a treasurer as well as another council nominee. We need a total of three nominees plus a candidate for treasurer.
- **Staff Expectations for Ending and Re-entering**
Chuck is still looking for social media language. He is recommending that we adopt the policy as is and then come back and amend it. This information will be shared with the congregation through both the pulpit as well as written copies. Chuck moved that we adopt the policy as written. (Harris / Nelson) Motion passed.
- **Annual Meeting**
Looking at the calendar, the week for the annual meeting would be February 5. Motion to set the date for February 5. (McLaughlin/Radabaugh) Motion passed.

- **Constitution Review**

Josh provided a red-lined copy of the constitution with the recommended changes by the ELCA and synod. Motion to approve changes as presented to take to the congregation at the annual meeting. (Radabaugh / McLaughlin) Motion passed.

- **Faith Formation**

We need some additional support for Bridget for Faith Formation. There is sign up sheets in the back of the church. Please help identify individuals and invite them to participate in faith formations. We need help leading faith in action classes, mentoring faith in action students, and helping planning faith foundation activities.

Accountability

- **For the Good of Messiah**

- Hampers are going out on Saturday. Charlie will be helping pass the gift cards out. We are able to support 45 families this year plus help 5 of the larger families with food.
- Pastor Chuck lifted up Charlie's team that has done amazing work in the gathering space.
- Staff is working on an idea to send out heartfelt thank you letters to those who have volunteered doing congregational life.
- Bridget reminded the group about the Christmas party on Saturday night.

- **Pastors' Reports**

- Pastor Chuck shared his report in writing.
- Pastor Bridget met with Pastors Keith and Jessica from Hope Lutheran Church in Enumclaw about a joint youth retreat. She will also be launching a high school youth group in February on Sunday nights.
- Pastor Susan had experiences with two different parishioners who were very ill this week. Sharing the phone numbers of the clergy in the various communication pieces proved to be very important.

Sending

- **Review of Assignment & Tasks**

- Anne will bring snacks/lead book study at the January meeting.
- Council members will read chapters 6-7 of One Coin Found for the book study.
- Council members will reach out to people about interest in joining council.
- Council members will consider ideas about increasing giving in the congregation.
- Please invite people to participate in faith formation activities.

- **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting. (McLaughlin / Radabaugh). Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

- **Lord's Prayer**

Pastor Bridget led the group in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Baunach

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Council President