

## Minutes for Church Council –April 26, 2022

**Attendees:** Randy Baskerville, Ros Demaree , Tom Foreman, Sandy Hanke, Mark Heckman, Steve Horton, Ashley Mandery, Sarah Manro, Jason Pearson, Jeff Reising, Pastor Al Schoonover, Harold Seamon

**Absent:** Pastor Dave Hill, Linc Schneider

6:35 meeting called to order. Pastor Al opened with prayer

Randy made a motioned to approve the March minutes, Steve seconded, and the motion passed.

Harold opened with Treasurers report and shared again his concern that expenses are greater than our income and our financial cushion is dwindling. The farm fund has taken in \$176,178 to date. We received a tax bill for \$3950 for the farm's 2021 tax year which we will have to pay. It was agreed to pay the taxes from the building farm fund. We will apply for a tax exemption for 2022 property taxes for the farm.

The Lenten offering counted so far, \$1756, will be sent to the NALC Disaster Relief Fund. The offering from April 6<sup>th</sup>, not counted yet, will go to Jews for Jesus.

Mark shared a year over year giving vs expense report for the first quarter. In summary, giving is about 10% below this same period last year. If this continues, our annualized giving will fall to somewhere near \$665K. Comparing 2021 to 2022 for the same period, expenses are running about \$5K more, net expenses are about \$29K more.

Mark asked the council members to pick a Sunday to do a ministry moment that will focus on the current sermon series "He has risen! So now what?" Pastor Al said with that theme in mind, he is going to reach out to Greg Finke, author of "Joining Jesus on His Mission", who did a workshop at Bethel in 2020 on that subject, and Paul Borg, a pastor who works for Greg, about Bethel's vision and what our next steps may be to reach out into the community.

There was discussion on uses for the farm property. Jeff reported that all the toxic waste has been removed. Items were removed from the house and property that will be put in the rummage sale. It was noted that the Kerry family has done an incredible job clearing the fence rows of debris. The house still needs a lot of work before it can be used so it was agreed outside events need to be our focus. After discussion on how to raise interest in the farm, it was proposed to hold a companion event to VBS at the farm to highlight the property. Jason and Sarah will initiate the event to get the church engaged and involved.

Concerning the HR issues, Mark was not ready to submit the HR report but from the conversations held so far with the legal firm he feels Bethel is in good standing. The report will be sent to the council as soon as it is finalized. He also mentioned that a rider was added to the church's insurance policy, for a minimal fee, to protect volunteers from liability.

The annual congregational meeting was set for June 12<sup>th</sup>. Randy volunteered to be the nominating committee chairperson. Applications for council at large positions need to be submitted by May 15<sup>th</sup> and provided to the congregation.

Sandy reported that the Shepherding program for new members is being initiated with the class that started April 24<sup>th</sup>.

The long-range planning committee is being formed and needs to be voted on and approved by the council. Currently Pastor Al, Jeff Reising, Herb Buck, Larry Eckhart, Chris Camperelli, and Mark Heckman are on the committee roster. Mark said they are looking to add someone involved with youth and someone with an IT background. Mark asked for names for consideration. Tom suggested reaching out to someone from another church to add an outside perspective. If Mark has a full roster of names for the long-range planning committee before our next council meeting, he will send out an email to the council for an electronic vote.

Each council member needs to submit an annual report to Mark by the 17<sup>th</sup> of May.

Sarah announced that donations for the rummage sale will be received June 5 – 12<sup>th</sup> and asked all council members to take part in the Rummage Sale. The boy scouts have committed to help with the tear down.

Ashley made a motion to adjourn, Steve seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Submitted by Sandy Hanke