

Minutes for Church Council –February 15, 2022

Attendees: Pastor Al Schoonover, Pastor Dave, , Sandy Hanke, Jeff Reising, Ros Demaree, Sarah Manro, Jason Pearson, Harold Seamon, Tom Foreman, Steve Horton, On line: Mark Heckman and Ashley Mandery

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

Pastor Dave made a motion to approve January minutes, Steve seconded.

Harold shared that we received a thank you from Samaritans Purse for our donation of \$774 and from NALC for our \$500 donation.

Harold went over the Treasurer's report which covered January financials, Building/Farm Fund and Mission Giving in 2021. Harold noted that although giving exceeded spending by \$10,000 last year we ended up \$73,000 in the negative due to mortgage principal payments. It was noted that if revenue does not start to go up we will quickly deplete the general fund.

Linc noted that attendance is down 50% from last year according to Pastor Al's report; from 400 to 200 and that is critical to the budget. Pastor Al said the attendance numbers from last year included everyone who logged into the live feed and may have been misleading and he needs to recalculate how he reports attendance. With that said, Pastor Al did say that attendance is down 1/3 from previous year.

Pastor Dave mentioned that financial statements have gone out and hopes they will remind congregants of their financial responsibility. Sarah has recorded the pledge cards that were turned in and although she did not have an exact number of cards, discussion was that historically only 1/3 of the congregants turn in pledge cards.

Tom noted that 100 congregants voted yes for purchasing the adjoining property but only 15 of those families have financially supported it. Tom stated that when we get activity on the property he hopes it will help engage the other 85 families to financially back their vote.

Harold asked that the Treasurer's report be approved by the Council. Though it has not been done in the past, the Council agreed it was appropriate to do. Steve made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and Pastor Dave seconded.

Pastor Al said they have a candidate for organist and she, along with any other candidates there may be, will be asked to play at a service so the congregation can hear them. Pastor asked if the Council wanted to interview any of the candidates and it was decided that the Council does not have to be involved with the interview process. The Music and Worship Search Committee has the expertise to evaluate the candidates and has the authority to hire the best candidate.

As part of Pastor Al's continuing coaching session, he would like to realign the pastor's schedules to include more community-oriented activities that help make connections to non-attenders outside the church. Harold asked how he intends to do that and Pastor said through civic groups, chamber of

commerce, coffee shop visits to name a few. Pastor Dave suggested a 4-H booth and prayer groups at schools.

Pastor Al asked for help to create the staff evaluation process and Mark said the Executive Committee will take on that role.

In September the Council had discussed the possibility of a before and after school program at Bethel. Pastor Dave had been asked to look into the state codes for such a program and now that he has them he will engage the Preschool Committee to research the opportunity of a Before and After school program at Bethel and help them get others engaged to look at the feasibility and interest in the program.

There was discussion on the critical need to get the Youth Council position filled and how to accomplish it. It was concluded that Eddie and his dynamic personality is the key to filling the position so Jason is going to discuss with Eddie about him approaching key people personally and asking them to work with him as the Council liaison.

Sandy offered to fill the vacant Council secretary position. Steve made a motion to accept the offer and Jeff seconded it.

Sarah reported that \$929 was made at the Chili Cook-off for the farm property. Approximately \$2000 was made from Comedy night for the youth.

A modified Welcome sheet will be reinstated by February 27. Ros will be responsible to make "opportunities for engagement and outreach" available to the congregation through it. It will be handed out along with Bethel Happenings.

Only one application was submitted for Mission Council liaison and it was from Randy Baskerville. The Council voted to accept Randy for the position through the end of June council year. Mark will notify Randy. Gay has requested to sit in on Council if Randy is not available. The Council agreed to let her be a substitute but she will not have voting privileges.

Jeff has received a request from Kim Forrester to use the back half of the garage that is on the new property and from Max Rudy to use the front half of the garage. They have each offered a donation of \$1200 a year for their half. Both Kim and Max want to use the garage for their auto interests. They will collectively carry insurance on the garage and its contents. Discussion followed about this creating a precedent for others to ask to use buildings or portions of the buildings. It was noted that this is a special use opportunity and Kim has done a lot of work selling items in the garage to help clear it out. There was discussion that we need to be able to end the arrangement once we are ready to move forward with the churches plans for the property. Jeff made a motion to approve the use of the garage by Kim and Max and Sarah seconded the motion. Jeff is to put a letter together for Kim and Max that clarifies the terms of usage of the garage and that covers the concerns raised by Council.

Jeff noted that we need a handicap ramp at the front of the church and the donations from the use of the garage would be seed money for the ramp. Jeff will get quotes for the ramp.

Jeff is going to talk to the Fire Department about an ad hoc burn of the trash piles on the property.

February 27 will be the first 'Coffee with the Council' opportunity for the congregation. It will be held during the Sunday School hour and coffee and refreshments will be in the fellowship hall. It was discussed to have a board up for the Property usage so people can add their ideas on how to use the new property. It was suggested Pastor Dave and the Preschool Committee have info about the Before and After School care opportunity to initiate discussion and interest.

Jason is looking into the cost of having dumpsters available for the community the week of the Garage Sale for them to get rid of big items not wanted. It would draw people to the church and also advertise the garage sale.

Sarah brought up that the girl's scout troop wants to use our tax exempt ID#. Discussion was that as their chartered organization we are owners of the troop so they can use our tax exempt ID#. Tom said they have to ensure they will only use it for the intended purposes of non-profits or it could jeopardize our tax exempt status. Sarah made a motion to allow the girls BSA troop and boy's troop to use Bethel's tax ID# as long as they are chartered by Bethel. Jeff seconded.

Jeff will contact the boy scout troop to move their trailers off the paved parking lot to the gravel area.

Pastor Dave asked if the church would financially assist Erin Eckert to attend an educational mission trip to the Dominican Republic. The Council had interest and Tom asked Pastor Dave to get more of the particulars of the trip and what kind of assistance would be needed.

Mark noted that a nomination committee needs to be created soon for the June Council changes.

Steve made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Tom seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Submitted by Sandy Hanke