

## **PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 10, 2018**

Attending: Nancy Whaley, Jan Jessup, Mark Wallace, Karen Wilming, Greg Scholl, Pastor Travis Wilson, John Kener, Brenda Shelton. Absent: Jeanie Gerling, Beth Kuhn. Also attending: Incoming council members Jay Hanson, Judy Chapman, Mark Savage, Debra Berkey. Congregational members Barry Winkel, Red and Marilyn McFadden.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm. Each person in attendance gave their name.

Opening devotions led by Pastor Wilson.

Barry Winkel shared concerns regarding the sale of the North Property, including the potential lack of control of the property after a sale, and how the money generated from a sale would be used, suggesting that it go toward paying down debt. He also reviewed several comments resulting from the cottage meetings involving church demographics, declining membership, and budget concerns. A handout was provided.

Red McFadden shared comments on the budget, citing a declining, older membership (lower gift giving, continued expenses) and our need to recruit new members to maintain the church. He also shared concerns regarding the sale of the North Property, stressing we need to make sure we have strong legal representation to protect our interests, from the beginning of any negotiations to after a sale is completed. A handout regarding church board responsibilities was provided.

The Council agreed that it is very important the congregation be fully informed throughout the sale process. The Council thanked and appreciated the members for sharing their concerns. Winkel and McFadden's left the meeting.

Motion by Brenda Shelton, second by John Kener to approve the November 12, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Brenda Shelton, second by Greg Scholl to approve the December meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Mark Wallace, second by John Kener to accept the staff reports as attached. Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Nursery nanny interviews will be scheduled after Christmas.

Pastor Wilson gave an update on the Autism group starting a class in the former head start room. He spoke with the director, she has an investor and it appears this project will go forward. The group will be in the room 5 days/week, year-round. Trained staff will work with the students, which could number up to 12 but more likely be around 8. Pre-K is the target age, with the goal being to mainstream the students. It will be nice to have kids in the building again, and this is a good opportunity for outreach in our community.

Annual meeting went well. Mark Wallace suggested we have a microphone available for member comments next year.

Constitutional review is ongoing.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Nancy Whaley welcomed the incoming council members and described the general meeting format.

Motion by Mark Wallace, second by Brenda Shelton authorizing Karen Wilming to clear out negative account balances, as done in the past, in preparation of the year-end financial reports. Motion carried.

2019 council members were asked to stay for a short meeting after the conclusion of this council meeting, at which time the January meeting will be scheduled.

Mark Wallace handed out a 4-year financial comparison and reviewed key points. An area of concern is November, 2018 cumulative spending is a bit higher than cumulative receipts, so that needs monitoring. We had a nice spike in receipts in September due to the request that was sent out to members. Hoping to end the year above \$40,000 in reserve.

Karen Wilming noted we might not see the usual increase in December receipts (if people gave in September what they normally would have in December). She is concerned that contributions could go down in general because of tax changes (can't deduct as much). Wilming also noted that our mortgage rate is low, but general expenses such as utility costs, insurance, mechanical equipment and repairs continue to go up, so it is a challenge to find where we can cut spending.

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Thank you Nancy Whaley and Jan Jessup for your service on the council.

Debra Berkey noted December 18th is food basket day. A list of the items needed has been distributed. Assembling 30 baskets total this year.

Greg Scholl commented that older congregation members need to be welcoming to younger folks. Our challenge is to get current members to actively work to bring more people in - recruit new members. Jan Jessup noted it's up to all of us to reach out to people and invite them to come to Peace.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Shelton