

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES

September 4, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: Council President Rebecca Brunetta called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

PRESENT: Pastor Kemp, Bob Errett, Rebecca Brunetta, Joan Orr, Kim von Schlichten, Jeanne Kiss, Dianna Marusko, Amy Schultz, Megan Zobb, Sue Ross, Suzie Flory

ABSENT: Brandie Saraceni, Merle Baker

JOY OF THE DAY – Several joys this month.

OPENING PRAYER

PASTOR HOUGH – GLADE RUN BRIDGES PROGRAM PRESENTATION - The Bridges Out of Poverty project is a program to strengthen families and communities, trainings are taken to congregations to help them better do current community ministries and to address the ministries that congregations are missing

-Bridges Out of Poverty helps people with jobs, healthcare, providing for families, housing, etc.

-Sanctuary Training – Training on not “What’s wrong with you?” but “What’s happened to you?”

-Youth Mental Health First Aid Training – For youth leaders and pastors – help identify when a youth might be struggling/suicide prevention

-How to Become a More Welcoming Church Training – How to be more welcoming to adults and youth on the spectrum

MINUTES: Suzy Flory made a motion to accept the minutes and Dianna Marusko seconded. Motion approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Bob Errett made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report and Sue Ross seconded. Motion approved.

PASTOR’S REPORT: August 2018 Report

1. Pastoral acts:
 - a. Funerals/Memorial Services: None
 - b. Weddings: none
 - c. Baptisms: Emmalyn Miller 8-5-18
2. Visitation
 - a. General/miscellaneous visits: 16
 - b. Hospital visits: 6
 - c. Bereavement visits: 0
 - d. Extraordinary communions (these are not extra visits): 15
 - e. Office Visits: 3
3. Worship leadership other than Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, weddings and funerals: none
4. Activity
 - a. Congregation Council: 8-7-18
 - b. Fellowship 8-1-18
 - c. Food from the Heart Luncheon: 8-1-18, 8-8-18, 8-29-18 Note: FFTH was not in session because of the alley work 8-15-18 & 8-22-18
 - d. Mtg. with Merle & Dean RE: Parking garage gate 8-3-18
 - e. Worship & Music: 8-12-18
 - f. Mtg. w/ Sean Burns, PPI Clinical Director

- g. Synod Constitutions and By-law committee: 8-18-18
 - h. Finance 8-21-18
 - i. Education & Youth: 8-21-18
 - j. Executive: 8-28-18
 - k. Property (B): 8-29-18
 - l. Food Pantry: 8-16-18
 - m. Preschool Planning Meeting with Barb: 8-27-18
 - n. Preschool Meet & Greet: 8-29-18; 8-30-18
5. For Information/Discussion:
- a. Confirmation class: I will be resuming with 7 & 8 graders in September.
 - b. Preschool Chapel time: I will be resuming my participation on Wednesdays & Thursdays in September.
 - c. Greensburg Pastors' Pericope Study: I missed all of them in August because of things arising on my calendar on Tuesday mornings; however, I look forward to returning to them this month when they resume.
 - d. IT Concerns:
 - i. We gave the new website construction the go-ahead
 - ii. Looking forward to sound system training in the month to come
 - e. Animal Blessing: Tentatively October 13, 2018 at 10a in the Park

COUNCIL BUSINESS:

For Your Information:

1. Cookies on Labor Day were well received, thank you to those that delivered and donated. Phase two of God's Work Our Hands will be with Habitat for Humanity.
2. 2019 Budgets are now due for Finance Team to begin preparing the church budget.
3. A Thank You Plaque was received from Children's Hospital in appreciation of our generosity.

For Action: Executive Committee recommends:

1. Approve the removal of Mark Alan Silvis, Jr. from membership. Bob Errett seconded with regret. Motion passed.
2. Approve the continuation of maintenance agreement with Exelos. Bob Errett seconded. Motion passed.
3. Rescind prior council approval for bid from Doing Better Business for a new copier. Jeanne Kiss seconded. Motion passed.
4. Approve a bid from CCA Solutions for a new copier. Jeanne Kiss seconded. Motion passed.

ACTIVATION TEAM REPORTS FOR AUGUST:

Christian Ed/Youth Meeting held August 21, 2018

1. Considering new ideas for VBS next summer to encourage more youth from our Church. Exploring the idea of an all day camp.
2. Rally Day on September 9th will be a Super Hero theme and will consist of a Bible story, games and a craft for SCS students.
3. Sunday School Openings this year will follow the theme, "Fruit of the Spirit." Each month the Spirit will be described as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
4. Considering adding a music program to SCS.
5. Adult Bible Study on Monday evenings will begin in October.
6. Other discussions held about the narrative budget, youth involvement in the Christmas Eve service and family and youth events held each quarter of the year.

Property Meeting held August 29, 2018

1. Discussed the completion of the west outside sanctuary wall. Inside sanctuary wall has to dry out and be metered for moisture.
2. Stripping and sealing the parking lot is scheduled for September 13 and 14.
3. Jaison will be on vacation September 10 – 17. We would like volunteers to help clean the church.
4. Gwen spoke on putting some kind of covers over the banners to keep them clean and dust free. Committee will look into it.
5. All first floor windows are repaired and painted.

Evangelism Meeting held August 30, 2018

1. God's Work Our Hands – Labor Day Cookie Trays to First Responders
 - a. Greensburg Police Department
 - b. PA State Police Barracks in Greensburg
 - c. Mutual Aid Ambulance Service
 - d. Westmoreland Hospital Emergency Room
 - e. Upwards of 15 batches of cookies were received (Enough to make a large and two small trays for each recipient).
 - f. Twelve volunteers delivered the cookie trays.
 - g. Since the Greensburg Police are our neighbors on Main Street, the entire delivery crew walked down Main Street to present the cookies and indulge in photo op.
2. Continental Breakfast will begin Sunday, September 9 under the supervision of Sue Boggs. Volunteers are needed to serve each Sunday.
3. Christian Living Campaign – Forgiveness Theme – from September to December
 - a. Signs will change each month
 - b. Signs will be displayed on Bulletin Boards and in Fellowship Hall
 - c. Smaller versions of the signs will be printed in newsletter and bulletins.
4. New project – Food Train – a meal delivery for families under special stress due to illness or other unfortunate circumstances. Currently working on procedures and protocols and will probably initiate the program later this fall.

Finance Meeting held August 21, 2018 @ 6:30 PM

1. Opened with a prayer by Pastor Larry
2. Mid-town Plaza Project
 - a. Fall property taxes due on September 30, 2018
 - b. Weather has hampered work on the property. AC work for summer done
 - i. Work lined up for a good weather week...Parking lot repairs, docks, roof leak
 - c. Tax Appeal is still delayed
 - d. Legal progress with Boyle Real Estate
 - i. Meeting rescheduled for 9/4/18, 10:00 AM at the law offices of Tremba Kinney Greiner & Kerr
 - ii. Discussed current repair situation and financing
 1. Several proposals from banks brought forward at meeting
 2. Motion made by Dave Mickley to continue to use Morgan Stanley Line of Credit, as approved via e-mail in July, at 4.576% (currently 4.5576%) for up

to \$157,000. Seconded by Malcolm Sias. Approved unanimously. Already approved by Council. No need to bring forward a second time

- e. Discussed financial statements
3. Morgan Stanley
 - a. Currently, the investments are working fine.
 - b. Bob notified team of upcoming large expenses
4. Discussed revised Personnel budget
 - a. Dave Mickley moved to accept the revised 2019 Personnel Budget. Malcolm Sias seconded. Approved unanimously
5. Bob brought forward feedback from the American Red Cross from the Council meeting.
 - a. Questions that were asked at the June Finance meeting were answered satisfactorily. Bob left opening for more questions. Just e-mail him. Council will be in charge of making the decisions on becoming a Red Cross Emergency Shelter
 - b. Church Mutual reported that we need to prepare a Safety Plan. A decision on how to do that and who is in charge of developing the safety plan is up to Council. Malcolm said the Safety Plan should be sent to the Property Team. The decision on becoming a Red Cross Shelter is in Council's hands
6. Bob reported to Finance about the Food Train Program and its successful implementation on trial. They liked the idea.
7. Request from city for \$2,000 donation, in lieu of taxes was received. Council should ratify in September
8. Bob brought up a request by Amy Schultz to fund training for a parish nurse program. After discussion, finance tabled this proposal in favor of Council notification and referral to Social Ministry Team for consideration
9. Bob explained the idea of creating the Narrative Budget for 2019, in addition to the standard budget forecast and the ledger for 2019.
10. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 7:28 PM

Action needed by Council:

1. Ratification of recommended \$2,000 donation to the City of Greensburg, in lieu of taxes
2. Referral to Social Ministry Team of Parish Nursing program and request for funding. Moved by Dave Cobb. Seconded by Dave Mickley

Social Ministry Did not meet
Stewardship Did not meet

Worship and Music Meeting held August 14, 2018

1. Two candle lighters were ordered. They will be dedicated on Rally Day, September 9.
2. Blue Orchid Floral will be the new florist for First Lutheran.
3. The Blessing of the Animals will be the first Sunday of October.
4. There will be a Hymn Festival on Reformation Sunday, October 28. at 4:00
5. Discussed times for Christmas Eve Services.

Personnel Did not meet

Fellowship Meeting held August 1, 2018

1. Planned the menu for the Annual Rally Day on September 9, 2018.

2. Menu will include hot dogs & buns, chicken salad sandwiches on croissants, pickles, chips, applesauce and cookies. Beverages will be coffee, tea, punch and water.
3. Patty Sias and Gwen Irwin will get together to work on budget for 2019.

IT Met several times in August

1. A new bid has been recommended for the copier.
2. A bid is recommended and accepted for a new website creation, installment and hosting program.
3. We still need people to record services, upload sermons onto BuzzSprout account and burn CDs for the homebound.

Action needed by Council:

1. Rescind prior Council approval for bid from Doing Better Business. Replace it with bid from CCA Solutions for copier
2. FYI for Council on Website rebuild, installation and Hosting with Exelos. This does not require Council approval, as it was in the original budget

Call Committee Meeting held August 25, 2018

1. The profile is 90% complete.
2. Meeting with Pastor Sarah on October 23, 2018 to review the current profile and process.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Synod Assembly Report – Pastor Larry showed everyone a good time, there were several great informational sessions and a church that First supports financially sought out Pastor Larry to offer thanks and will be coming to thank everyone September 23, 2018
2. Vacation Bible School Report – Held at Zion, 8-12 kids for the four days, only one student from First, discussed trying to do an all day camp next year to get more kids involved
3. Safety Plan and October fire drill/active shooter training -
 - a. Fire Chief is excited to help us plan a drill at the end of October
 - b. Safety plan will be addressed in coming month

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Amy Schultz is excited to share that she has enrolled in a Parish Nurse Program at Mercy Hospital. “Faith Community Nursing” can include a team of any congregation members that want to be trained. Examples of what a Parish Nurse can do is to check blood pressure in the Fellowship Hall after services on a Sunday, holding a Health and Wellness Fair, visiting shut-ins, etc. Legal issues will be discussed through the training.

A. Bob Errett made a motion to have the Church cover the \$245 tuition for Amy Schultz to enroll in the Faith Community Nursing program. Kim von Schlichten seconded. Motion passed.

2. Council members first terms up in December 2018, all four are eligible to run for a second term – Merle Baker, Sue Ross, Suzy Flory, Brandie Saraceni

3. Care package outreach ideas discussed
4. We will be sending \$2,000 as our budgeted voluntary donation to the city of Greensburg
5. The Maga family sent a thank you for Wyatt’s baptism
6. The Thrivent Community Loyalhannah Children’s Bureau sent a thank you for donation for school supplies

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Suzy Flory and seconded by Amy Schultz to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved.

CLOSING PRAYER

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Zobb, Council Secretary