

ST LUCAS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – FEBRUARY

2/22/2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marty Schmidt, Jeff Wagener, Carol Stelmach, Donovan Larson, Jenny Bell, Marsha Fey, Ken Hamilton, Kathy Herron, Dave Johnston, Jack Laudenslager, Juanita Wagner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joy Dressel, Violet Brooks, Julia Burr, Paul Simons

STAFF PRESENT: Rev Vicki Hampton

STAFF ABSENT: Rev. Dr. Carole Barner

The February 22, 2022 Council meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Vice President Marty Schmidt.

Marty asked for a volunteer to take notes for Jeff because he was joining the meeting by phone while driving to an appointment. Kathy offered to take notes.

OPENING PRAYER: Marty Schmidt began the meeting with an opening prayer.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Pastor Vicki Report

Pastor Carole Report

January Church Council Minutes

Membership and Evangelism Minutes, January 2022

Finance Committee Minutes, February 2022

Marty asked if there were any items that anyone wanted to take out of the consent agenda.

Carol said that the pastoral reports are not supposed to be in the consent agenda.

Kathy said that she had some minor changes to the minutes that she had sent to Jeff, but had not been added to the minutes. She read the changes, and Council approved them.

Marty asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda without Pastor Vicki's and Pastor Carole's reports. Carol moved and Dave seconded that the consent agenda be approved without the inclusion of the pastors' reports. Consent agenda was approved.

STAFF REPORT: (Pastor Carole's and Pastor Vicki's reports were sent to the Council before the meeting).

Pastor Vicki asked that if you have read her report, were there any questions or concerns that it raised. There were none. She highlighted the following items from her report:

The transition team had met three times and they submitted their report. Vicki further described the work of the committee and said that there would be a survey, individual interviews, congregational conversations similar to the 12/5/2021 event and an off-site small group gathering.

The member roster review plan is to notify members who will be marked inactive by letter. The current process is thorough and gracious, but it does not follow the process outlined in the bylaws. It will be noted that this will be addressed when there are any by-law reviews and possible changes.

Vicki will attend a mediation skills workshop for a week in March as part of her continued education program.

Vicki answered concerns about the above items:

- Vicki hoped that the transition team would have their goals accomplished around September when a search committee could be set in place.
- Marked as Inactive:
 - Inactive refers to those who have not been at church, have not given anything, and no one from the mission and evangelism committee has seen them in two years. The letter will be invitational and not accusatory.
 - Members are responsible for giving to the church. The letter will be sympathetic to all the possible hardships from Covid.
 - If a member is over a certain age, they would not be considered as inactive.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lent and Easter Plans – Vicki said that the theme used on Ash Wednesday will be reflected throughout Lent. She gave an overview, saying that the services will be on education, and she gave the titles and emphasis of the services. The Lenten services will begin at 6:15. Ash Wednesday will start at 7:00. There will be one service on Good Friday at 7:00 and two services on Easter Sunday.

Heritage Award – was rescheduled for March 19.

Keeping Religious Communities Safe: (This topic is from a seminar that was attended by some council members.) Jenny will work with emergency preparedness.

Virus Task Force Report – Marty reported that the Task Force decided to keep the status quo for now, with hope that the requirements will change in a few weeks. The Pancake Dinner and other near future events will follow the same guidelines used at the Chili Cook Off for now.

NEW BUSINESS:

Revised AV job description – (The job description submitted by Dan Herron was included in the packet.) Marty asked if there were any objections to posting the job description. There were no objections.

The plan is that the job description will be posted to schools like Eden Seminary, Meramec, Fontbonne, Lindenwood, Webster. Marty will pass on to Dan the idea that possibly a high school senior could also be interested in this position.

Revenue sharing of sexton house rent – Donovan said that his report included two houses: old parsonage and sexton house.

- Old parsonage– Our renters received a grant called the Emergence Rental Assistance Program grant, which paid the rent balance and future rent until October.
- Sexton House – The sexton house is located on Cemetery property. Part of the Church’s and Cemetery’s history includes the Church sharing 20% of the rent from the house with the Cemetery, and the Cemetery paying the Church office a percentage to help subsidize the salary of the Church office personnel who do work for the cemetery board. That is not happening anymore, but Donovan did receive a letter a letter from the cemetery chair regarding the matter.

After discussion, it was decided that a memo be written to the Cemetery Board regarding keeping the bookkeeping simple and saying that the two transactions balance “wash” each other. Donovan will create the memo, send it to Council for additions/corrections, and then give the finished product to Violet to submit to the cemetery board.

Also, in the minutes there was an issue about a tree on the sexton house property that needed to be taken down and that should be considered a Church expense.

The above conversations were included in the minutes of the cemetery board, so they were delayed until this part of the meeting. A motion was made by Carol and approved by Dave that the cemetery board minutes be submitted. Cemetery board minutes were approved.

Emergency (bad weather) closing instructions – The office, along with the Preschool, follow the Lindbergh School closings.

Church’s closing decisions are made by the council president and the senior pastor as soon as possible. Megan is responsible for contacting the media and posting closing on the website and in an eblast.

Telephone issues: 1) We are investigating how to change the answering machine message remotely. 2) Closings of the office for holidays and other closings are listed in an email blast. 3) The message on the office recording needs to be updated.

Recognition Event:

- Celebrate Amy as Mehlville High School's Teacher of the Year between services on Sunday, March 6, and having the second service at 10:45 am. (This could be the kickoff for the coffee hour, if Covid case numbers keep dropping, and a person is named to oversee the kitchen.)

Commitments:

Ken said that the Sign-up Genius for offertory processing at worship services is not being attended, especially at the 10:30 service. Please sign up.

Marty will talk to Terry Marcille, the head usher, regarding usher duties during morning worship. When there was a Contemporary service, there were no ushers at that service. Terry will be asked if he would be willing to set up a second service usher team. A request for ushers in the eblast may be helpful.

Making sure that persons attending services sign in is a new thing for the council members who handle offertory processing. It seems more aligned for ushers to handle that responsibility.

On Saturday evening, Council was not sure if the bells are rung, and there are regular ushers.

The meeting ended at 7:17 with the praying of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Herron
Council Member