

## **Minutes of the McFarland Lutheran Church Council Monday, January 25**

**Members Present:** Sandy Chalmers; Kristine Bell; Karen Emerson; Bob Kalhagen; Dennis Knutson; Jerry Hrovat; Linda Langel; Dick Moen; Tom Scharine; Sarah Schutt; Marilyn Vandeberg; Menghort Thikim

**Staff Present:** Pastor Jerry Pribbenow; Bonnie Duerst, Meg Neilson

1. **Call to Order** – Sandy Chalmers called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

2. **Opening Prayer and Welcome**

Pastor Pribbenow offered an opening prayer and Sandy welcomed everyone to our meeting.

3. **Devotions**

Sarah Schutt shared the importance of listening and the impact it has on how we live our lives.

4. **Approval of December Minutes**

Moved by Sarah Schutt and seconded by Marilyn Vandeberg to approve the minutes of both the December 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> meeting as recorded. Motion Carried.

5. **Reports**

**Council Members**

- **Jerry Hrovat** reported that the proposed ministry fair has been supported by the stewardship and worship committees. After much discussion, it was agreed that this event should be scheduled for Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> and will be organized by the Stewardship committee. All committees will be invited to participate with the Global Missions, Health & Wellness, and Education committees having significant roles in creating this event.
- **Karen Emerson** reported that the Child Life Ministries has scheduled an open house from 6:00 – 7:00 PM on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. During this event, our church will be open for tours, fall registration will be available and information about all education opportunities will be presented.
- **Dick Moen** reported that the personnel committee has been up-dating the employee handbook.
- **Menghort Thikim** reported that the refugee family is doing well in adjusting to life in our community with English classes at MATC and employment. The Global Mission committee may not sponsor a one-day event in October, but is considering inviting guest pastors who represent other nations and cultures to preach throughout the month.
- **Linda Langel** reported that the natural church development committee has not met. Interim pastor Finney will assist this committee when he begins in February.
- **Sarah Schutt** reported that the Child Life Ministry board will be focusing on the best ways to approve and communicate changes in employee policies with all staff. The CLM will be increasing fees for the fall term to better reflect the market demand for their programs.
- **Dennis Knutson** presented a handout that described the current financial status of our church. Although the giving is currently projected to be about \$6,000 short by the end of the fiscal year, the finance committee is expecting to be able to balance the budget through reducing expenses. The finance committee has transferred money from Thrivent Financial to McFarland State bank to receive a better return on their investment. He also reported that the churches “Articles of Incorporation” are in final draft form and will be recorded in the near future.

**Pastor Jerry**

- Has met with interim pastor Tews who preaches on Sunday, January 31 while he presides.
- He supports an every-member visit and will be working with Pastor Finney to develop a plan to do this. The purpose of the visit would be to personally invite members to participate in programs and events at McFarland Lutheran Church.
- The individuals who are supporting our refugee family are doing an outstanding job and need to be recognized for their dedication.
- Slightly over \$1,900 was raised from the January 23<sup>rd</sup> pancake breakfast.

## **Bonnie Duerst**

- \$500 of food and household items was donated to the McFarland Food Pantry from donations from McFarland State Bank and Thrivent Financial.
- Affirmation of Baptism students completed a session of classes with Reverend Terry in December and January and will be involved in a number of events in the future, including attending a worship service at St. Marks Lutheran Church and designing valentines that will be sent to servicemen/women and others from our church.

## **Meg Neilson**

- Lenten Meals and Kids activities are being planned.
- Care of Creation continues to meet with staff.
- Ten families began new member classes on Sunday January 24th. Their welcome celebration is scheduled for Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **6. Discussion**

When assessing our term in office, council members presented the following proposals:

- ⇒ Pastor Pribbenow will return to devoting more time to visiting shut-ins and providing support for elderly members of our congregation.
- ⇒ All committees need to remain focused on activities which support the mission of our church.
- ⇒ Evangelism efforts by everyone need to be re-emphasized in order to invite more families to attend worship services and events sponsored by our church.

## **7. Old Business**

### **a. Interim Pastor contract**

Contracts have been accepted by both Pastor Tews and Pastor Finney to serve as interim pastors. Pastor Tews will service as the senior pastor and work 40 hours per week (80 %) while Pastor Finney will work 10 hours per week (20 %) as an associate pastor. The wages that will be paid Pastor Tews and Pastor Finney will equal the total dollar amount that had been budgeted for our senior pastor.

Pastor Pribbenow will return to serving an average of 20 hours per week and carry out duties as described in his original letter of call.

## **8. New Business**

### **a. Memorials Committee**

Karen Emerson moved that the memorial committee develop a policy that will be specific to using bequests given to our church; Seconded by Kris Bell. Motion Carried.

A bequest was defined as any monetary gifts in excess of \$1,000, unless they were designated to a specific memorial. The memorial committee will work with the finance committee to develop this policy that will be presented to the council for final approval.

### **b. Global Mission Committee**

Moved by Meng Thikim; seconded by Sarah Schutt to distribute money from the International Scholarship fund as proposed by the Global Mission Committee; Motion Carried. This represents 100% of the money in the International Scholarship Fund.

#### Funds will be distributed as follows:

\$1,000 Imani School in Tanzanian	\$3,000 College Scholarship Fund (students attending a Lutheran college)
\$2,000 Sanchita Kisku (India student)	\$ 780 Uganda Students
\$1,000 Bagonza Girls (for education)	\$1,500 Jerry Locula (Liberia Seminary student)
\$1,000 CLM (for scholarships)	

### **c. Congregational Life task force/committee.**

Pastor Finney will be asked to work with this committee to develop programs which will serve the needs of families in our congregation.

**d. Planning next year's budget.**

Dennis Knutson presented a handout that outlined the process that will be followed in developing next year's budget. It defined the role of the council, finance, personnel and each standing committee, executive team, pastoral / administrative staff and the interim pastor. Council members are to share this information with their specific committees and begin planning for the coming year.

**9. Announcements - Important dates were highlighted:**

Sunday, Feb. 7 – Council Forum; 9:15 – 11:30 AM  
Monday, Feb. 8 – MLC/CLM Open House;  
Sunday, Feb. 14 – Stewardship Sunday  
Monday, Feb. 22 – Council Meeting; 7:00 PM

Sunday, March 7 – Council Forum; 9:15 – 11:30 AM  
Saturday, March 13 – Synod sponsored LEAD program congregational leaders and staff  
Sunday, March 14 – Stewardship Sunday  
Sunday, March 21 – New Member Welcome  
Monday, March 22 – Council Meeting; 7:00 PM

Sunday, April 4 – Council Forum; 9:15 – 11:30 AM  
Sunday, April 11 – Stewardship Sunday  
Monday, April 26 – Council Meeting; 7:00 PM

Sunday, May 2 – Council Forum; 9:15 – 11:30 AM  
Sunday, May 9 – Stewardship Sunday  
Sunday, May 23 – Ministry Fair  
Monday, May 24 – Council Meeting; 7:00 PM

Sunday, June 6 – Council Forum; 9:15 – 11:30 AM  
Sunday, June 13 – Stewardship Sunday  
Monday, June 28 – Council Meeting; 7:00 PM

**10. Closing Prayer and Adjournment**

Sandy Chalmers adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM.

**Respectfully Submitted**  
**Tom Scharine, Secretary**