



SHARE GOD'S WORD **SHOW** GOD'S LOVE **SERVE** GOD'S WORLD

McFarland Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

September 27, 7:03 pm

Present: Pastor Naomi Garber, Pastor Kelli Smidt, Wayne Corey, Jon Schadeberg, Doug Buechel, Katherine Miller, Paul Hundt, Scott Potts, Jane Licht, Sarah Schutt, Carri Wolff, Carol Quinlan, Christina Hughey

Call to order. President Scott Potts called the meeting to order. and welcomed the new members: Sarah Schutt, Carri Wolff, Doug Buechel.

Devotions. Jane read a prayer by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

John Zweig. Pastor Naomi spent time with John and his family during his last week. John really wanted to live so that he could get just one more project done. John retired from his dental practice two years ago and was a very active member of our church in his retirement. Pastor Naomi was able to tell John that the Constitution Review Committee completed his extensive work on that project. The family is not planning a funeral at this time. Scott and others mentioned his many contributions. John wrote most of the updates for our Constitution, served on the Solar Task Force, led the Covid Task Force, worked on our Sexual Harassment Policy, worked with the Boy Scouts, attended Men's Bible Study and was Vice-chair of the Council. Jane would like to donate altar flowers in his honor and invited others on the Council to join her.

Approval of August minutes. Wayne moved and Paul seconded a motion to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Pastors' Reports. Pastor Naomi said that she enjoys the sound of children and all the activity going on at church. She and Pastor Kelli will be teaching a class called "Martin Luther Basics" beginning Oct. 17 and each Monday through November 28 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Members can drop in as they are able. Traditional communion will begin this Sunday but the "lunchable" communion with both wafer and wine will continue for the Saturday service. There will be no kneelers. Friday and Saturday, Pastor Naomi will help lead a women's retreat at Holy Wisdom Monastery. October 8-19 she has vacation. Last Sunday was the blessing of the animals that even included a toy airplane.

Pastor Kelli thanked the Council for her sabbatical where she did in fact hike, pray and read as she had planned. An article and collection of photos will be in the e-news starting tomorrow. On her return, she jumped back into Rally Day and Sunday School where there are 70+ kids and roughly 30 leaders involved. Pastor Kelli shared Bibles with 3-year-olds, 4-year-old, and Kindergarteners, and led the Backpack Blessings. She led the closing worship for a retreat with the Women of the

ELCA, last weekend in Sun Prairie and thus was not able to attend the Walk4Water fundraiser (but her family did attend). Pastor Kelli looks forward to three baptisms scheduled for this month, the Pumpkin Fest on Saturday, October 15 from 11am-2pm.

Chris Landerud opened a mission trip to Guatemala and 18 high schoolers signed up. Pastor Naomi said that the High School Breakfast will commence beginning Wednesday, Oct. 5. Using the screen space in the sanctuary for event announcements is working well. Oct. 23 is a service by the confirmands. Then there is our Reformation Sunday and All Saints Sunday. John Zweig's family will be invited to All Saints Sunday.

Treasurer's Report. Katherine said that the payment from the school district for 4-K will be coming the end of October. Offerings are still down from pledges but Katherine is hopeful that as the fall continues they will increase. We will have a financial review – different from a formal audit. The **Finance Committee** is working on their position description. They are also working on the issue of undesignated funds. They plan to give donors a number of options as to where the money will go. A new bus is needed for the CLM that will cost \$80,000 to \$120,000 to meet safety requirements. Those who have an IRA can make contributions directly to the church with no tax liability but the donor must be over 70. Perhaps donors could use VENMO as an alternative to writing checks.

Properties. Doug said that the parking lot light project is done except that timers may be installed. LED lights have been installed in the Family Life Center and the hallway. A Focus on Energy rebate reduced the cost. Scott and Gary reviewed a water leak that will cost about \$2000 to repair. A quote of \$40,000 was received to replace a roof and more quotes will be obtained. CLM staff complained about housekeeping and the Properties Committee may seek another vendor. We need to be very clear to the cleaners about our expectations.

Global Missions. Wayne said that our Walk for Water campaign has raised over \$16,000 for a well in Uganda and we only need another \$6,000 for a second well. The Silent Auction raised nearly \$3,000. Wayne handled publicity and Channel 3 covered the Walk. There were articles in the Thistle and Cap Times. Donations are accepted for the next four weeks. We should thank chairperson Gudrun Sindermann.

Health and Wellness. Pastor Kelli said that the Health & Social Wellness Committee is collecting items for Domestic Abuse Intervention Services the month of October. There will be a table in the Gathering Space.

Call Committee. Pastor Naomi suggested that the top vote getters, a group of ten dedicated church members, be on our call committee. Jane so moved and Carri seconded the motion. Pastor Naomi will organize the first meeting and then she will remove herself from the process.

Council Corner. Scott said he plans to write a brief overview of our Council actions for the News You Can Use in the bulletin to keep members informed.

Shared Table. Scott reported that the first Shared Table dinner since Covid will be held this Thursday at 5 pm. Chair Vicky Holten is trying to get more groups to volunteer.

Solar Project. Sarah Schutt and Katherine Miller suggested ideas for moving forward and the council acted as a committee of the whole to craft language for three motions.

Sarah moved and Jane seconded a motion stating that the Church Council wishes to express gratitude to the original members of the Solar Task Force: Wes Licht, Ron Vandeberg, Dawn Bolstad, Nina Schultz, Ryan Harkins, Jimmy Zweig, Katherine Miller, Dale Marsden and John Zweig. This group did an amazing job researching, analyzing, and compiling recommendations to the Church Council. The original mission of the Solar Task Force has been realized. This motion disbands the original Solar Task Force and accepts – with the Council’s appreciation – their recommendation to purchase and install solar panels, using the vendor they recommended. Motion carried.

Sarah moved and Wayne seconded a motion to establish a Solar Implementation Task Force (SITF) comprised of three representatives from the initial Solar Task Force, plus one representative each from Council, Finance and Properties. The scope of the SITF will be to work with Properties and Finance to establish a process for purchase and timeline for installation; and make recommendations to Council for how and what to communicate with the congregation about the solar panel project, including holding a congregational meeting. Motion carried.

Sarah moved and Christina seconded a motion to direct the SITF to accomplish the tasks outlined in the STF recommendation and prepare – in cooperation with Properties – a summary for Council review and approval. This recommendation will describe overall strategies currently being implemented and explored (HVAC, LED, etc) to reduce the carbon footprint of MLC. This will be shared with the congregation ahead of the congregational meeting on solar. Motion carried.

The tasks outlined in the STF recommendation are as follows: (1) Educate the congregation on the benefits of solar (reduced cost of electricity, reduced carbon footprint, increased satisfaction of church members), (2) Educate the congregation on the proposed solar installation, (3) Obtain approval for the solar project at a special congregational meeting, (4) Update Solar for Good with a progress report that is required in November in order to maintain our grant, (5) Get updated bids from suppliers as needed, (6) Coordinate the signing of contracts, (7) Keep the congregation informed of progress, (8) Coordinate installation dates of shingles and solar panels with attention to CLM concerns.

Covid Task Force. Katherine moved and Christina seconded a motion to dissolve the Covid Task Force with great appreciation from the Council. Motion carried.

Adjournment and devotions. Paul moved and Katherine seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried at 9:08 pm. Pastor Kelli led us in the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Licht, Secretary