



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

McFarland Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2022, 7:06 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. He reviewed the agenda.

Devotions. Jon read a passage from a favorite book that described a scene emphasizing the value of fellowship over wealth.

Troop 53 presentation. Three young scouts who were confirmed in our church thanked the council for sponsoring their troop. Scout master Dan Maas is leaving but Mark Heckel will be the new scout master of the troop. The scouts have many opportunities for adults to aid Troop 53 such as serve as the Community Service Coordinator, Communications person, Popcorn Sales Coordinator, Advancement Chair, and Training Coordinator. Some of these positions are filled and others are being done by various parents. The Troop had 16 scouts last year and anticipate the same number or more this year. They anticipate having four more Eagle Scouts. Paul said that he and John Zweig attended some of their meetings and were impressed and comfortable with the training and leadership of Troop 53. They will present their charter for our signature at our November meeting.

Approval of Minutes. Katherine moved and Wayne seconded a motion to approve the September 27 minutes. Motion carried.

Pastors' Reports. Pastor Naomi said that 15 young people were confirmed this weekend past weekend. The Monday evening classes on Martin Luther are going well with attendance of 20 last week and 24 last night. Eighteen people from our church plus 13 others will be on a mission trip to Guatemala in January. There will be Souper Supper for Advent. The Children's program will be held December 4 at the ten o'clock service. There will be about 60 children in the program and it will be awesome. Pastor Naomi taught a women's class at Holy Wisdom early in October. She appreciated her weeks' vacation. She would like to move council meetings from 7 pm to 6:30 pm. Jane moved and Katherine seconded a motion to begin meetings at 6:30 pm. Motion carried. It is hoped that meetings will end at approximately 8:30 pm.

Pastor Kelli said the Pumpkin Fest had great energy. They had approximately 200 to 300 participants and about half were families who attend our church. There were three baptisms this month.

Financial Report. Katherine reported the following highlights:

1. Developing position descriptions for the Finance Committee is proving to be challenging but this document should be ready for the November meeting.
2. The undesignated funds issue is a work in progress.
3. The Finance Committee is working with the Properties Committee regarding their list of projects, both capital and maintenance. The committee has asked Gary to provide them with a presentation.
4. The use of computer applications for giving to the church was discussed. VENMO is for individuals and not corporations. "TITHLY" is the app for making church donations. There is a surcharge for users and just a few people in our congregation use it. Katherine will investigate further.
5. The parking lot lights project is slightly over the estimated cost of \$43,000.
6. There are 32 children enrolled in 4-K program but we have room for and budgeted for 36. Due to 4 fewer students, revenues are less than anticipated. We will use the program expense budget to cover as utility costs are embedded in budget. Utility costs would have been incurred with or without 4K students.

Sarah moved and Carri seconded a motion to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried.

Properties. Doug said that the project to replace traditional lights with LED lights is progressing. Gary has finished the first floor and is working in the kitchen. He will soon start in the lower level. The Properties Committee will obtain a Focus on Energy rebate.

Solar Implementation Task Force. Sarah said that they held their first meeting and clarified their role. They are coordinating activities with the Properties and Finance Committees. Ron Vandeberg will get updated quotes for the new roof. There was a discussion on fundraising. The SITF was strongly advised to not consider a fundraising campaign related to solar, given other, current needs of MLC. The committee will focus on preparing a proposal for a solar panel system which will be fully covered by existing designated funds. Various dates for this congregational meeting were discussed by the council and by consensus, the date of January 22 was chosen. The SITF had discussed ways to communicate with the congregation such as news articles, temple talks, a bulletin board, kid's activities and social media. Pastor Naomi said there could be a temple talk in November and one again in January. The temple talks are to be 3 minutes long. Paul suggested that a display table should have a knowledgeable person there to answer questions. The SITF will present their plans to the council via email.

Global Missions. Wayne said that this is the committee that has the most fun. The Walk for Water campaign raised over \$17,000 for a well and a half in Uganda and more money is expected. The committee discussed ways to add value for sponsors - what more can we do for them to encourage them to do for us. The Guatemala mission trip will assist with infant formula and the clothes accumulated for Uganda may go there as well since that trip had to be canceled. The committee is in consultation with Stoughton Resettlement Assistance Program for Ukrainian refugees. The annual bake sale is December 10-11 with our youth making lefse, rommegrot and sugar cookies. There will be a 50-50 split with proceeds going to the food pantry and global missions.

Vacancy on the Council. The council members discussed a possible candidate and decided to invite that person to join us.

Vice-president. Paul said he would accept the position if no one else will volunteer.

Call Committee. Three of the group of ten people declined to serve on the call committee so there was a second vote. Paul moved and Jon seconded a motion that the top four vote getters be invited to join the call committee. Motion carried. Note: members confirmed to serve are Dawn Bolstad, Wayne Corey, Bonnie Dirks, Isaac Ewing, Aaron Geisinger, Rick Hall, Harlan Hettrick. The four members invited to join are Erika Landerud, Sheri Gehrke, David Nelson, Renee Rodeck.

Constitutional Review. Pastor Naomi explained that Chapters 1-9 are required by our ELCA Synod. Chapters 10-13 are designed for our particular church. Chapter 10 concerns the congregation. Chapter 11 concerns the officers. Chapter 12 concerns the council. Chapter 13 concerns the committees. John Zweig embedded the bylaws into the constitution. The six-digit numbered provisions were formerly bylaws. There are a few major changes and lots of minor edits that were made. The major changes are: (1) the pastor may vote at council meetings, (2) a member may serve two consecutive three-year terms, (3) fifty members constitute a quorum at congregational meetings, (4) the council is authorized to use the continuing resolution for describing committee responsibilities and the like, (5) the council will act as a nominating committee. Brent Odell edited the document. The entire Constitutional Review Task Force members agreed to all the changes. Sarah moved and Paul seconded a motion to accept the most recent version of the constitution. Motion carried. Paul moved and Jon seconded a motion to conduct a congregational meeting on November 13. Motion carried. Carri will do one final edit. The announcement regarding the meeting will be given this coming Sunday. The congregational meeting will be held between services on November 13 at 9:15 am.

Adjournment and devotions. Katherine moved and Jon seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried at 8:57 pm. Pastor Naomi gave a closing prayer thanking the Lord for a productive meeting.

Next meeting is November 15 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Licht, Secretary