



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

McFarland Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2023

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

Excused: Christina Hughey, Sharon Mylrea

Call to order. President Scott Potts called the meeting to order at 6:39 pm.

Devotions. Paul read a five-sentence prayer about working together to the glory of God. Carri read an essay about our many shortcomings in this modern age but also our endless possibilities.

Minutes. Paul moved and Doug seconded a motion to approve the November 22 minutes. Motion carried.

Pastors' Reports. Pastor Naomi reported that our Advent journey went well. Every Sunday worship service in Advent was different and the variety was good. An identical bulletin was used for all three Christmas Eve services. Harland Hettrick was the lector at all three and remarked at how different each congregation was. Pastors Naomi had a brief vacation after Christmas and visited family in Scotland. The mission trip to Guatemala was great and each person on the trip carried 50 pounds of items for the local people. Presentations will be given about the trip at next Sunday service. Jane Cahill Wolfgram, our parliamentarian, said that the congregational meeting [on January 22] was very impressive, both in tone and how well it was organized. On February 22, Ash Wednesday, there will be two Lenten services but only the evening service thereafter because of low attendance at the 11 o'clock midweek services. Facebook Live will be available at the evening services. A new adult class will be offered on Monday evenings titled "Making Sense of the Cross," conducted by both Pastor Naomi and Pastor Kelli. There will be a New Member Sunday in February. In the absence of Shared Table, Pastor Naomi suggested that McFarland Lutheran host a new Sunday Supper at MLC once a month. It should have a new name and everyone in the community would be invited. It would be good for the community and for MLC.

Pastor Kelli said that over 60 kids participated in the Children's Program held during regular worship service for the first time. It included participation by the congregation with hymn singing and was very well received. On New Year's Day the service "Christmas Lessons and Carols" featured six youth and five adult readers. Pastor Kelli presided at Richard Doran's funeral. There are six baptisms on the calendar. A baptism class is offered quarterly. The class offered by both pastors will discuss "What is Worship?" on February 5 and 12. The third week, February 19, will be on worship leadership roles.

Health and Social Wellness Committee. The four committee members discussed goals and decided on the following objectives: (1) to nurture relationships, and (2) to seize opportunities to actively participate in our faith. They felt that "Local Missions" better describes this committee than Health and Social Wellness. They plan to work jointly with Good Sheppard Lutheran for their "Feed My Starving Children" event on March 3rd and March 4th where bags will be packed with food that can be later boiled prior to eating. These bags can be shipped anywhere.

Paul moved and Sarah seconded a motion to change the Health and Social Wellness Committee name to Local Missions Committee. Motion carried.

Sabbatical. Pastor Kelli's sabbatical will be June 15 through August 15, 2023. If there is no new pastor by then, Pastor Naomi will extend her stay at MLC to cover this time period.

Contract Extension. Jon moved and Wayne seconded a motion to extend Pastor Naomi Garber's contract from January 30th to July 1st. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report. Katherine reported that we have \$74,000 in checking and \$723,000 in dedicated funds but this will soon be reduced by the cost of the new Trane HVAC unit. The good news is that our mortgage payment is down and the bad news is that we are \$34,000 short of making our budget. CLM proposes to increase rates for various categories of child care and preschool from 1.6 % to 4.1%. Katherine explained that though CLM revenue is usually higher than the cost of teacher salaries and supplies, operating costs such as utilities and maintenance [roughly estimated to be between \$14,000 and \$45,000] were not figured into this calculation. She also said that the CLM director [Sara Phelan] has made good use of federal grants but those grants are coming to an end. Jon and Pastor Kelli did not find the new rates unreasonable. Time is of the essence so after discussion the council decided to vote on the issue. Scott said that the CLM director is now aware that she should plan ahead and allow more time before presenting rate increases to the council. Jane moved and Paul seconded a motion to approve the rate increases. Motion carried. Katherine said the position descriptions for Finance Committee members has been completed. Scott will send out the template for these position descriptions to council members.

Solar Implementation Task Force. Sarah would like to work closely with Properties and Finance and develop a plan for implementation. Contracts need to be obtained for roofing the Family Life Center and from Synergy. The Focus on Energy grant and the Inflation Reduction Act should be monitored. Jane suggested that Ron Vandeberg would be an excellent project manager. Wayne said we should contact Senator Tammy Baldwin and Representative Marc Pocan and ask their help in shepherding these grants for us. Jane indicated she would do so. Pastor Naomi said that Barbara Doran will designate donations from Richard's funeral to the solar project, further reducing the gap in solar funding.

Properties Committee. Four new rooftop HVAC units were installed during the holiday break but two of the three indoor units are in poor condition. The Family Life Center thermostat needs repair and protection. All of the upstairs and 1/3 of the lower level bulbs have been replaced with LED bulbs and more will be ordered. Window replacement on the south side is out for quotes. We had another leak at the welcome desk – an ongoing issue because of the design. The sprinkler system is being inspected at a cost of \$820. The committee welcomes the challenge of working with others to install the solar panels.

Personnel Committee. Paul said that Sharon, our part time custodian will be leaving and that Ken Brost, our other part time custodian, is having health issues. We need to hire new people.

Worship Committee. Pastor Naomi said the committee is losing two members and is down to Jane and herself. More people need to be recruited.

Stewardship. John Zweig who passed away last fall, was the chair. More people need to be recruited for this committee.

Global Missions. Wayne said the group that traveled to Guatemala brought clothing and other items that had been collected for Uganda but the Uganda trip was cancelled. Girls' clothing in particular was greatly appreciated. By any measure, the trip was hugely successful. Bonnie Dirks initiated a project to sponsor a teacher in Guatemala for \$80 per month. Wayne and wife Diane are involved in the refugee resettlement program in Stoughton where 14 Ukrainian families have been given housing.

Call Committee. Wayne reported that the process is slow and methodical as per Synod requirements that include a very detailed Ministry Site Profile. Reports are being presented to the congregation.

Constitution and Bylaws. Pastor Naomi said that Synod Pastor Wendy Moen reviewed our work and only found three typos. We should receive a final copy soon. Scott said the next project to tackle is developing the positions descriptions as continuing resolutions and that Sandy Franklin agreed to coordinate this effort.

Boy Scouts. Four young men became Eagle Scouts in a ceremony in the Family Life Center on January 22. There was a full house for this event. Mark Eckel, a member of our church, is now the Scout Master of Troop 53. Paul serves as the council liaison. Paul moved and Carri seconded a motion to approve the following contracts as modified by the council: "Unit Charter Renewal Report Package" and the "Annual Unit Charter Agreement." Motion carried. By consensus, the board agreed that the Boy Scouts Troop 53 should be considered a mission and given committee status.

Nominating Committee. Paul moved and Sarah seconded a motion to establish a Nominating Committee. Motion carried.

Top Three Activity. Pastor Naomi collected the raw data from Sharon Mylrea's Top Three activity sheets that were handed out at the January 22nd congregational meeting. She presented this information to the council. Many of the same items were mentioned repeatedly.

Adjournment. Paul moved and Jon seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried at 8:41 pm.

Devotions. Pastor Naomi lead us in the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is February 28 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Licht, Secretary