



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

## **McFarland Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes**

February 28, 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, Christina Hughey, Sharon Mylrea

**Call to order.** President Scott Potts called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

**Devotions.** Katherine Miller read a prayer thanking God for his amazing blessings.

**Minutes.** Paul moved and Carri seconded a motion to approve the January 18 and January 24 minutes. Motion carried.

**Solar Implementation Taskforce Report.** The roofing contract was signed. Once the roofing season starts (perhaps in April), the company will begin the work on our roof the third week. We need to provide a dumpster. The committee checked with CLM director Sarah Phelan. The solar inverter was ordered immediately after congregational approval but it will take 28 weeks to arrive. However, the solar panels can be installed sooner. Ron Vandeberg and Ryan Harkin inspected the roof tresses. They are working on placement of the wiring to the electrical facility. Ryan will take care of the Focus on Energy grant. The task force is working on a communication plan to keep the congregation informed.

**Pastors' Reports.** Pastor Naomi reported that the Ash Wednesday services were cancelled due to severe weather. Instead, Pastors Naomi and Kelli included ashes at the Saturday and Sunday services. There were major technical difficulties at the 10 o'clock service but in the end, it was all good. The pastors are conducting Monday evening classes called "Making Sense of the Cross" based on the book by Dr. David Lose. Seventeen members attended the first class. The theme of our Lenten services is "Writing Our Story Through the Cross," and this week the focus is the comma. She has had delightful baptisms and children's time during the service. Pastor Naomi has been shifting staff responsibilities as needed and contemplating new positions. Paul said that having the children find crosses in the sanctuary was a good activity.

Pastor Kelli said that three classes on Worship were held in February. These were well-attended, fun and interesting with lots of participation. She also reported that the **Local Mission Committee** is partnering with Good Sheppard Lutheran Church to pack food bags this Saturday as part of the "Feed My Starving Children" program. Seventeen people from our church are going. There will be a 9:15 pre-baptism class this Sunday. The Family and Ministry Team are holding a Lent/Easter open house from 9 to 11 am March 18. It is to be an intergenerational event with various activities at stations with explanations.

**Finance Report.** Katherine reported that our funds went from about \$723,000 to about \$600,000 because of the new HVAC equipment recently purchased. We are still lagging behind on giving. There is a large increase in the Properties Committee expenses because of a 9.1% increase in Alliant Energy rates. The Finance Committee has developed a new procedure for the CLM director to follow in order to publish rates in January for the various types of child care and education. The director will present proposed rates to the Finance

Committee in October. The Finance Committee will discuss and approve the rates as presented or modified. The Finance Committee will present the rates to the Council in November. The Council will decide in December. The Finance Committee is discussing memorials given to the church. They contemplated offering donors to either give the money towards (1) the van needed for CLM or (2) for current needs to be decided by the council. Council members expressed various opinions. The Council members agreed that the money should be spent promptly and the donors thanked. Perhaps some general categories should be offered such as, CLM scholarships, music ministry, carbon reduction, global missions, etc. The Finance Committee will continue their discussion.

**Call Committee.** Wayne said that the committee met every week in January and every other week in February. The committee is right on schedule according to ELCA standards but some members of the congregation feel they are too slow. They are filling out the required forms and doing what is needed to get the right pastor. Scott, who has been attending these meetings, explained that most pastors don't consider making a change until after Easter. God's time is not necessarily our time. Scott said there have been good discussions and the committee has been coming to a consensus. Pastor Naomi passed out a timeline. November of 2022 the Call Committee began. April of 2023 the Congregational Mission Profile will be complete. May through November 2023 will be the time to develop interview questions, conduct pastor interviews, make a pastoral candidate recommendation and extend the call. January to April of 2024, the new pastor begins.

**Global Missions Committee.** Wayne said the Guatemala trip was highly successful and he is pleased that the Thistle covered it so well. The Committee distributed a written report to the Council.

**Properties Committee.** Doug declined to give a report since a written report was distributed to the Council.

**Continuing Resolutions.** Scott explained that as part of the continuing resolutions, descriptions of each committee are being developed under the encouragement of Sandy Franklin.

**Nominating Committee.** Council members suggested people to be contacted to serve on this committee. Carri suggested using the lists of people whose names had been offered for the transition team and the call committee. Carri and Paul agreed to serve. At least one more member is needed according to our constitution. The senior pastor is an advisory member.

**Worship and Music Committee.** New members are needed. Jane invited Tom and Cheryl Scharine to join her on the committee and they are considering it. Pastor Naomi said that there should be representatives from all three worship services.

**Stewardship Committee.** More members are needed and former members need to be contacted.

**Welcome Desk.** Paul said that Sherri Gehrke and Cheryl Ackley are starting up the Welcome Desk again beginning this coming Sunday.

**Mission Fest.** Sharon talked about the benefits of holding another mission fest where our various committees and ministries could show off their activities. Pastor Kelli said the last one was held ten years ago.

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

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

Next meeting is March 28 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jane Licht, Secretary