



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

McFarland Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

August 22, 2023

Present: Pastor Naomi Garber, Pastor Kelli Smidt, Wayne Corey, Jon Schadeberg, Paul Hundt, Scott Potts, Jane Licht, Sarah Schutt, Erin Kraemer, Matt Lancaster, Sharon Mylrea, Carri Wolff, treasurer Mike Devine

Absent (excused): Doug Buechel, Christina Hughey

Devotions: Pastor Kelli read a prayer from "The Lives We Actually Have" and the section called One-hundred Blessing for Imperfect Days.

Call to order. President Scott Potts called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. He asked the council members to introduce themselves for the benefit of the new council members, Matt Lancaster and Erin Kraemer

Minutes. Paul moved and Wayne seconded a motion to approve the June Council meeting minutes. Motion carried. Wayne/Carri moved to approve the July Council minutes amend to name Jane Licht as secretary. Motion carried.

Pastor Naomi's report. Pastor Naomi said it was lovely to have Pastor Kelli back from her sabbatical and she has spent time sharing updates with her. One major item of discussion was how the staff vacancies are being handled. There needs to be clarity regarding Pastor Kelli's role especially since a new pastor will likely not be in place until the first of next year. It is better not to rush filling this position. Pastor Naomi will be the interim pastor for St. Luke's in Middleton, a large church with four Sunday services. She admires their special app with a bar called "What's Happening" to keep the members informed and also a FAQ area. We could do the same at our church on our website or Facebook page. Pastor Naomi recommended that Pastor Kelli and Jane Licht work on similar text to be put on our website and e-news. Pastor Naomi said she has learned a lot working with our faith community and has confidence in our leaders. She noticed that people are laughing, a good sign of a healthy church community. She recommends that we leave the music director position vacant and let the new pastor fill it as this is actually good for recruitment. Pastor Kelli will select the hymns for the 8 am service. The choir will sing and the hand bells played perhaps once a month at the 8 am service. The 10 am team will continue on as they have before. Rita has taken on more work and Carrie is working from home to do the bulletin, e-news and website. Carrie's position needs to be filled.

Pastor Kelli's report. Pastor Kelli said her sabbatical was great as she hiked, read, prayed and spent time with family. She hiked 57 miles, some by herself and on nature walks with her children. She spent an overnight in rural Town of Oregon with her spiritual director. She thanked Pastor Naomi for

encouraging her to take a sabbatical. Now she is working on her 300 emails. Pastor Kelli agrees that the goal is to get the right fit when filling the senior pastor position. Regarding her future as pastor in our church, she has four key expectations.

1. There will be another voice in the pulpit twice a month. We will try to get a bridge pastor and if that is not possible, at least pulpit supply.
2. Pastor Kelli will lead staff meetings and someone from the Council Executive Committee will also attend.
3. Pastor Kelli will attend only the Executive Committee and the Finance Committee meetings. There will be a temporary Worship and Music Committee created to provide support for Pastor Kelli.
4. Pastor Kelli will prioritize activities as needs arise such as funerals, baptisms, etc.

The question was asked, how can the Council help and support Pastor Kelli? We can be positive a positive voice to others in church. Fridays are her days off and the other six days she will be available. Pastor Kelli remarked on the full schedule of special events for our church in the coming weeks:

- Farewell to Pastor Naomi - all three services August 26 & 27
- Backpack Blessing - all three services September 9 & 10
- Rally Day/Kick Off to Faith Formation - between services Sunday, September 10
- Holy Smokes Congregation Meal - after second service Sunday, September 10
- 3-year-old Bible Presentation - all three services September 16 & 17
- First day of Sunday School and Confirmation - Sunday, September 17 at 9am
- Global Mission Sponsored Walk-4-Water - Saturday, September 23
- CLM Teacher Blessing - Sunday, September 24 at 10am
- Celebrating Animals at all three services September 30 & October 1
 - Care of Creation Sponsored Pet Blessing - Saturday, September 30
 - Stuffed Animal Blessing - both services Sunday, October 1

Financial Report. Mike said we have \$79,000 in checking and our mortgage was reduced by \$2,000. July was a five Sunday month and collections were \$58,000 while we only budgeted \$48,000 so we are starting off this fiscal year very well. Expenses were as anticipated. There will be no 4-K income until fall. Pastor Naomi said that we have received a number of checks for \$132 to address the deliberate budget deficit of \$46,000. Paul asked about Temple Talks this fall. Sarah noticed that the Quilters are soliciting funds but the Solar Task Force was discouraged from doing this. It would not be wise to have multiple fundraising drives during the same time period. Sarah and Sharon will draft a policy for special collections of time and money. Jon will investigate use of Google Drive as a home for all our policies and other documents.

Continuing Resolutions. Sharon and her task force have been working on Continuing Resolutions. The first area to be addressed is a draft of Committee descriptions. Also included are definitions of Committees and Task Forces. More committees can be added and other changes can be made by a vote of the council without the need to hold a meeting of the entire congregation. This draft has been reviewed by council members and committee chairs. It will be presented for a vote at the September council meeting. Erin said she feel this document is very helpful for new council members.

Solar Implementation Task Force. Sarah said the inverter has arrived so now all the necessary equipment is available. We are waiting for Alliant Energy to sign off. One of their senior engineers did not approve our interconnection plan so Synergy will develop a new plan. After the installation is complete, Sarah would like to have a celebration.

CLM Van update. Little Spartans directors are willing to sell us their van. Scott and Sara Phalen will take a look at it to make sure it fits the needs of CLM. Finance has approved the purchase.

Committee Liaisons:

Finance – Wayne, Sarah

Personnel – Matt, Carri, Paul

CLM- Matt

Property – Doug

Global Mission – Erin

Care of Creation – Jane

Stewardship- Sarah

Local Mission – Christina

Boy Scout Troop 53 – Paul

Council Retreat. Scott said this will be held Sunday, September 24 beginning at 11 am and run to 3 pm. Pastor Kelli, Sharon and Scott will organize this retreat intended for goal setting and team building.

Call Committee. Wayne said their first interview is next week and two more are scheduled for September.

Walk for Water. Wayne said you can still sign up on the church website.

Care of Creation: Jane said that the COC sponsored a canoe trip down the Yahara River last Saturday and 14 people attended.

Adjournment. Paul moved and Carri seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried at 8:20 pm.

Pastor Naomi led us in in a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jane Licht, Secretary