

Council Meeting, September 20, 2011

Members present: John Rivett, Cathy Schulz, Fred Bartlett, Mark Kern, Jim Stirrett, Tom Laatsch, Cindy Frazier and Patty Paisley (as a substitute for Kathy Smith). Seven members present which is considered a quorum and enough for voting purposes.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by John Rivett. The meeting began with a prayer led by John Rivett.

Minutes: The minutes from the August Council meeting were read over silently. A motion was made by Cindy Frazier to accept the minutes as presented and seconded by Cathy Schulz. There was no discussion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Financial Report: The written report was presented with the agenda. Question regarding the balance in the furnace replacement fund (\$10,495.91 as of 9/1/11). A \$24,480.00 check has been written to the furnace company; there was a \$2400 (additional?) expense for asbestos removal. There is still a remaining balance of \$24480.00 that we owe to the company.

Pastor's Report:

Vacation Days

0 weekdays used; 24 remain

1 Sunday used 3 Remain

- Wedding off site on Sept. 9th – Askew / Brandt Bay City (non members)
- No funerals
- Baptism Sept. 11 - Luke Scherzer
- Preached a message on August 20th at Freeland Festival of Faith
- Resumed Spiritual Direction Meetings with Sr. Gene Bouman August 17th but missed the Sept. 14th meeting due to back problems
- Confirmation classes have begun
- New members group and first communion delayed due to back problems
- Thanks to our township police and fire departments for their help on 9-11 memorial and parking their vehicles in front of the church.
- Nursing Home Ministry continues
- Final Preparation for confirmation is under way. The following students are presented to be confirmed this Oct. 30th, 2011. These students have been in our program the entire 2 years and through interview, participation and affirmation of their faith are indeed ready for the affirmation of their Baptism in the rite of confirmation: Erica and Ben Crawford, Ashtyn Hare, Katie Frazier, Tucker LaVere, Luke Mattson, Gabrielle Mills, Katie Pacholke, Casey Rappuhn, Allison Riffel, Megan Schmidt, Taryn Taugher, Daniel Taylor and Allison Young

Health Update: “This past month has seen much pain and struggle regarding my back. I have re-injured my back. I am presently going to a pain management specialist tomorrow for nerve blocks. My use of pain medications has not been an issue at all, being used as needed under the care of my family doctor and wife. The MRI was not conclusive to explain my pain. The neurologist ordered some additional x-rays, started me on Neurotin (non narcotic nerve medication) and got me into the pain management clinic. This has been one of

the most trying times in my career, from many perspectives. My hope is that the worst is behind me. Prayers are appreciated.”

A concern was mentioned regarding Pastor’s health and his ability to perform services. Do we have a service we can call to fill in for him so he can rest and try to heal?

New Business:

Long Range Planning Committee: Cindy Frazier represented the committee but did not have any updates. John received one phone call from a member regarding the committee. He will research the situation and get both sides of the concern.

Contract Employee: no one internally has stepped forward for the position. Need to post externally for candidates. Check with Pastor and Marsha – they received 2 suggestions for external possibilities.

Furnace Fund Drive: The Congregation committed to raising \$15,750 (30% of the total cost) to pay for the balance of the amount owed for the new boiler/furnace. The Women’s group contributed a sizeable amount toward this amount (\$2,700). John, as President, will write a letter to the congregation addressing this special fundraiser and have this mailed out to the congregation (cost \$70-80 for the mailing). He will also try to include this letter with the October newsletter. New Boiler Update: Part of it is already installed, the pipes are in, the old boiler is out and it looks like they will definitely meet the 10/1/11 date set to be complete.

Budgeting 2012 Process: current budget and proposed budget presented with agenda. Still unresolved issues: salaries, copier, additional staff. Last year, Council set a maximum limit on the staff increases when we presented to the congregation. Increases would be based on the job performance reviews. We address Pastor’s salary each year but not his housing allowance. The review committee for Pastor should also take this into consideration. Pastor will conduct the staff reviews with a maximum limit on their salary increases as well. Pastor’s cell phone – approved as an expenditure in the budget. Need to look at the minutes regarding what was stated regarding the cell phone usage. Copier – need to look at replacing this one (\$10,500 for used copier). Current one is getting old. Need more information before adding this into the budget. Additional treasurer position – added in the budget as a salary. Total of \$270,300 for 2012 budget (up approximately \$40,000.00 from 2011 due to additional staff - Pastor’s asst and treasurer position). Much discussion regarding each line item. Will need to review and bring back to the October Council meeting. Possibly take a look at funding the Asst. Pastor position similar to the Music Director Position (a 3-year plan).

Recruiting Leaders: Cindy has received 2 or 3 nominations so far.

Preparation for the Annual Congregation Meeting (10/24): additional staff member, budget, boiler fund progress. Anything else? Nothing else indicated.

Anything else?

Next Council Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2011

Ministry Reports

Deacons – not much to report – Jim Ostrander coming back after being gone a year.

Education – no report at this time

Elders – business as usual; bud vases for those 80 and above; new members reception postponed

Property – current hot water heater holds over 100 gallons and unnecessary. Should look at possibly replacing it (very old). Should be able to get the funds from the Property budget.

Worship – no report at this time

Women's – written report included with the agenda.

In Reach/Out Reach – no report at this time.

Stewardship – banners hung within the sanctuary; temple talk complete, mailings gone out, Sunday 9/25 will be Stewardship Sunday.

Music – written report included with the agenda.

Endowment – Estate planning workshop: Sept. 27th 6:30pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm by a motion made by Cathy Schulz and seconded by Cindy Frazier. There was no discussion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote. The meeting closed with a prayer by John Rivett.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Paisley, on behalf of Council Secretary, Kathy Smith