

Council Meeting, October 18, 2011

Members present: Pastor Rob Schmidt, Kathy Smith, Cathy Schulz, John Rivett, Jan Hennink, Tom Laatsch, Gary Miller, Cindy Frazier and Marsha Paetz.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by John Rivett. Pastor Rob offered an opening prayer and led devotion, "Being honest, open and transparent is always the best policy".

MINUTES: Motion made by Jan Hennink and seconded by Gary Miller to accept the September 20, 2011 Church Council minutes. Motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The financial report was included with the minutes. There was nothing unusual in the month of September, except for a boiler payment of \$26,880, leaving a \$24,480 balance. Every week, more and more money is coming into the Boiler Fund.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Vacation Days: 4 weekdays used and 20 remain; 1 Sunday used and 3 remain.

Wedding: Wegner / Hayes on Sept. 24th 2011 and Ralph / Ingle on Oct. 8th 2011.

No funerals

Baptisms: Oct. 16th Casey and Layne Gensel

Passed out 3rd grade bibles at the Oct 16th worship

Clothing drive is going on right now. Community Thanksgiving service will be held at the Methodist Church this year.

Continuation of long range planning with ad-hoc committee. Pastor is completing work on the ballots for the upcoming congregational meeting. Nominations have been submitted for executive council, and these positions will be invited to consider the nomination by Pastor. Committee heads are contacting possible candidates by phone and Pastor has e-mailed them as well for serving on individual ministry teams. Confirmation classes continue as we focus on the study of the Ten Commandments. New members group and first communion delayed due to back problems. Nursing Home Ministry continues Final preparation for confirmation. 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- General health is doing good, back is doing well.

Discussion Items:

1. Organization of council and meetings should be considered a goal for next year. We need to promote a meeting structure within our council and ministries that promotes growth, nurture of group members and regular and consistent representation and reporting.
2. Discuss changing or checking constitution by-laws to allow for absentee ballots for future church wide votes, allowing ministry members appointed between congregational meetings to serve in official capacity and voted on ASAP. How are executive positions filled between Congregational Meetings?

Action Items:

1. Approve names for confirmation as listed above

2. Approve executive council ballots with Jeff Schram, John Rivett, Jon McQuinn and Ralph Flatt for President and Korene Labadie and Connie Hoverman as Treasurer to complete a 1 year term.

There was discussion regarding the absence of various Church ministries at this meeting. Motion made by Pastor Rob and seconded by John Rivett to affirm one chairperson from each ministry to commit attendance at monthly council meetings and to find a structure to discuss our ministry strengths and challenges at each Council meeting in form and function. Discussion followed and more open dialogue was encouraged. Motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

There was discussion of possible ideas for constitutional amendments. Pastor will put them into a written form and will submit them to John Rivett.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budgeting 2012 Process: A proposed budget worksheet was presented. Pastor's housing allowance has not changed since he arrived here and a 2% increase is suggested. Salaries are suggested to increase by a 2.5% cap. The budget includes a staff member, which we're not sure we're going to hire. A new copier and the bookkeeper salary is also included.

Motion made by Cindy Frazier and seconded by Kathy Smith to send the budget to the congregation. Motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Long Range Planning Committee: There is a meeting planned in November. Discussion was held on their Mission Statement, 'Connecting every day life to every day faith' – how it needed to be their driving force at their last meeting with Pastor Hardy. Motion by Tom Laatsch and seconded by John Rivett to take the recommendation of the mission statement to the congregation for approval. Motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Contract Employee / Bookkeeper: Bob LaDuke has stepped forward to take on the bookkeeper position without pay effective February 1, 2012. The Board appreciates his experience and expertise, and we are very grateful.

Furnace Fund Drive: We have raised approximately \$5,000 to date. The Treasurer will summarize in a written report to John Rivett.

Recruiting Leaders: 6 people were nominated for President – 4 accepted: Jeff Schram, Ralph Flatt, John Rivett and Jon McQuinn.

4 people were nominated for Treasurer – 2 accepted (1 year term): Korene Labadie and Connie Hoverman.

Motion by Pastor Rob and seconded by Gary Miller that everyone who was submitted for approval be put on the Council ballot. There was no discussion. Motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

The Ministry positions received a handful of nominations and Pastor is suggesting various people to various Ministries.

Prep for Annual Congregation Meeting to be held October 23, 2011: Minutes, mission statement, furnace fundraiser, election of officers, election of the Vestry and announcement of the next Vestry meeting date, being January 17, 2012.

Anything Else: Begin thinking about the Mission money – to be discussed at the November Council meeting.

Next Annual Congregation Meeting: October 23, 2011.

Next Meeting Date: November 29, 2011.

MINISTRY REPORTS:

Board of Parish Education – Terms are ending for Elaine Merrill, Claudia Flattery and Lori Chrcek and they need new members. Bibles were distributed to approximately 7 third graders. Confirmation Sunday will be held October 30 with 13 confirmands this year. They need help decorating and putting together gift bags on Saturday, October 29 at 10 a.m. Their next meeting date is November 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Deacons – They are losing Lyle Hafer from the Deacons.

Elders – no report

Property - no report

Worship – no report

Ministry of Women – The Fall Bible Study continues. Trunk or Treat will be held on Halloween beginning at 5:30 p.m. The Woman's Christmas Party will be held December 12 for \$15 per person. They need back packs for distribution in the Freeland community next year. The winter clothing drop-off will be at Zion again this year to be distributed the week of October 17. The Mother/Daughter Banquet will be held in May. They need two people to audit the books. They need to recruit new people to the Woman's Board. The upcoming Fall Bazaar will be held on November 12 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

In/Reach – Out Reach – no report

Stewardship – Prayer Chain and Care Givers will be highlighted in the November newsletter. The Nursery and Children's Church will be highlighted in December. They need new members in this Ministry. Ralph Flatt and Jan Hennink attended a Stewardship Ministry workshop. Commitment Cards are beginning to trickle in.

Music – no report

Endowment Fund – Held their estate planning workshop with 6 in attendance. They received 2 grant requests and paid both requests. Grant money is still available.

Motion made by Pastor Rob and seconded by John Rivett to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. There was no discussion. Motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Pastor Rob offered a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Smith, Council Secretary