

Minutes of the July 14, 2020 Congregation Council Meeting

Present: Pastor Mark Laatsch, Ronda Pedersen, Kathy Bero, Terrie Porras, Stacy Hansen, Boni Nerat-Heckel, Matt Vanni, Jim Zobel, Bill Taccolini, Jeff Hines. Absent: Dave Anderson, Bill Kuhnlein(e), Jeremy Sallgren(e), Kylie Chevalier (e).
Present to Report: Patti Treptow, Judy Raygo.

Meeting called to order @ 6:00pm by President Ronda. Council met in Fellowship hall with Stacy, Boni, and Bill T attending via Zoom. Ronda called for agenda approval. Kathy motioned to approve, Jim seconded; motion carried.

Opening Devotion: Pastor Mark read from the book "Let Me Tell You A Story" by Tony Campello which included a reading from Matthew. He closed with prayer.

Secretary's Report: Terrie noted 6/9 minutes correction; Under Action Items, Payroll Protection Plan, "the Parrishs" should say "Carole Parrish". No other activity. Ronda called for a motion to approve the minutes, Kathy so motioned, Matt seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Pastor reported for Deb Villas who is in quarantine due to a COVID-19 exposure. Deb is in transition and currently training and orienting to the Treasurer's job. June financial reports were printed out and reviewed. Jim **motioned** to approve payment of August bills, Kathy seconded, motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS – where we've been. Ronda led a discussion on the pros & cons of holding a **Summer Picnic**. After much discussion centering on the uncertainty of safety during this COVID-19 pandemic, Pastor **motioned** to postpone the picnic indefinitely, Jim seconded, motion carried.

REPORTS – where we are.

Youth Advisory Council Report: Kylie Chevalier – excused absence. Patti reported there has been no new activity.

Youth & Family Ministry Director's Report: Patti - nothing new to report.

President's Report: Ronda – nothing new to report. Finance: See treasurers report.

Youth – Stacy - have not met, no activity Stewardship: Kathy – have not met.

Learning: Patti - no activity, meeting in Aug. Endowment: Kathy – no activity, meeting in Aug.

Fellowship: Ronda – no activity. She will notify committee that picnic has been postponed indefinitely.

Human Resources: Jim – met with Finance Committee regarding Treasurer's Job Description. See P&P.

Memorial: Pastor – they have met and will meet again next Tue. They will be voting on purchasing a defibrillator and have found a good church package and price.

Outreach: Terrie – have not met, no activity.

Policy & Procedures (P&P): Jim – have met. They are close to completing approximately 40 documents which he has stored on a thumb drive in Word document format. Jim will work with Patti and Judy to post them on our web site. Jim would next like to meet with committees to help them operationalize their P&P.

Property: Matt reported. **1.** S&O Lock to rekey the front and back door locks for \$257 (\$182 parts+\$75 labor). **Motion** to approve made by Kathy, seconded by Bill T, motion carried. **2.** Delay on countertops from Wicks. **3.** Seal coat bid is pending. **4.** A&K Sprinklers repaired 8 sprinkler heads and maintenance our system. Sprinklers not run last year d/t

rainy summer. Plan to run them weekly this summer if only to check their function and will put this on their To Do Calendar. **5.** Sign install behind as Construction Services is back logged. Hope to have this project finished by Aug.-Sep. Permit has been approved. **6.** Looking at stair treads to protect carpet and elevator rug to prevent slipping.

Worship Committee: Pastor – have met and will meet again next Tuesday. Handed out copies of draft they developed entitled “Emmanuel Lutheran Church Worship Recommendations for Re-opening the sanctuary for worship”. Pastor encouraged members to send their ideas for the re-opening plan to him.

Other: Ronda shared that Boni looked into renting a tent for the 14th street parking lot to provide sun protection during worship. K&S have tents to rent, would have to be staked into the black top. Cost: 20x30 frame \$412.50/mo., 20x20 frame \$292/mo., black top fee \$50. Discussed asking members to bring umbrellas or using our pop up tent to provide shade. Could purchase additional pop-ups as needed, need to look into the cost but think it would cost less than K&S tents. Discussed moving The Alter so that the sun would be behind the congregation. Pastor could stream the service from this location as he uses his phone for Wi-Fi.

Pastor’s Report: 1. Had 47 people attend last Sunday’s service. Service included Holy Communion at the end of service and then by drive through for ½ hour after service (6 cars participated). 2. Pastor was asked by AA, when can they return to meeting in our building. Much discussion ensued on wanting to support this organization but much concern was expressed about how to do it safely during this COVID-19 pandemic. Who would clean? Is Carol willing? Who would pay her? Should AA clean? Would their cleaning meet our standards to ensure we feel safe? If someone catches the COVID virus in our building are we liable? Need to ask our insurance agent. There is talk of liability protection in the next federal PPP package. Discussion tabled until next month. 3. Pastor was scheduled to do 3 weddings this fall. One couple got married elsewhere, another moved their wedding outside, the third is still on for Oct. 10th. Need to think about COVID guidelines for weddings and other church events.

NEW BUSINESS – Policy & Procedures report by Jim. Reviewed Treasurer’s Job Description, **Motion** to approve by Pastor, seconded by Ronda, motion carried. Reviewed other P&Ps. **Motion** by Matt to approve Financial Records Retention Policy, Mission Endowment Fund Committee Policy, and Property Committee policy, seconded by Stacy, motion carried. Discussed the Church Usage Fee policy. Request made to make the Sanctuary Cleaning Deposit the same as the Fellowship Hall (\$50). Jim will bring this policy back to P&P Committee.

LONG TERM PROJECT/GOALS - Pastor lead a discussion on our book study of “The Agile Church”, chapters one and two. Discussion Points included: Pastor - Our culture has changed; faith is focused on humans, not God, a more moralistic approach. Terrie - Religion seen for purpose of self-help. Treated like a restaurant (go when you feel you need it) vs. family (you show up even when you may not want to). Important to survey congregation needs; is the gospel meaningful to you? What spiritual struggles do you have? Jim - Our faith teaches us to help others and that’s what we need to focus on. Patti – Proud of all of the activities we have done and continue to do as a church that help others. Terrie – Helping other is important, but you can do that by joining a group like the Kiwanis, or by volunteering at the Food Pantry. What does the church offer that is unique to our Christian heritage and can only be found at church? In closing, all asked to read chapter 3 and be ready to discuss at our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm on a **motion to adjourn** by Kathy, seconded by Jim, motion carried. Pastor closed with prayer followed by all members saying The Lord’s Prayer together.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terrie Porras, Council Secretary