

## Minutes of the February 14, 2023, Congregation Council Meeting

Present: Pastor Christine Olson, President Matt Vanni, Vice-President Terrie Porras, Secretary Joanna Magrane, Treasurer Debbie Villas, Jim Briar, Stacy Hansen, Jeff Hines, Betty Kohrt, Chris Nelson, Jeremy Sallgren, Gail Sieglaff, Cindy Smith

Absent: Bill Taccolini, Judy Raygo

Present to Report: Patti Treptow-Director of Youth & Family Ministry

Call to Order/Agenda Approval: Matt called the meeting to order at 6:06, then called for review and approval of the agenda. Stacey made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Gail, motion carried. Council members introduced themselves for the benefit of Pastor Christine, who's attending her first Council meeting at Emmanuel, and Joanna, who's beginning her first term on Council.

Opening Devotion: Pastor Christine led council members in offering short individual prayers aloud.

Secretary's Report: Matt called for review and approval of the minutes of the January 10th meeting. It was requested that the minutes be amended to include that Cathy Hipke has been asked to replace Kerri Weigal on the Audit Committee. Stacy moved to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Jim, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Financial reports were reviewed. Debbie shared current pledge figures and reported that expenses are currently under budget. After discussion regarding a new monthly Wisconsin Public Service fee (Power Supply Cost Adj.) and the resolution of a potential issue with a recent water bill, a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Cindy and seconded by Gail. Motion carried.

### **ACTION ITEMS: OLD BUSINESS**

Election of Council Secretary: A motion was made by Terrie to elect Joanna Magrane as Council Secretary. The motion was seconded by Betty. Motion carried. Jeff Hines was unable to attend the Annual Meeting at which Council members were installed. He will be installed by Pastor Christine at a later date.

Pen Pal Notes to Luther Home Residents: Terrie reported that 71 cards were filled out by Congregation members for the residents of Luther Home, and that the Acting Director is very pleased. Terrie will deliver the cards soon. Council members thanked Terrie for her efforts in overseeing this Emmanuel Cares project.

Bulletin Sponsorship: After review of the bulletin sponsorship program, it was noted that, due to the amount of time and ongoing effort necessary to acquire and follow up on sponsorships, this fundraiser may not be sustainable. Stacy will put the program on pause for the time-being and Council will revisit the funding of bulletin-printing costs during discussion of the 2024 budget.

### **REPORTS**

Youth & Family Ministry Director's Report: Patti presented her report as written and noted the upcoming youth lock-in at Emmanuel and Jr/Sr High Retreat at Fortune Lake. Patti also reported that letters regarding the Carl and Marian Johnson Memorial Scholarship were sent to 11 graduating seniors.

The deadline to apply is April 1<sup>st</sup>. Patti further noted that a rough draft of the Policy and Procedure for administering scholarships, which she will bring to the March Council meeting, was approved by Jim Zobel of the Policies and Procedures Committee.

President's Report: President Matt Vanni reported that the Annual Meeting went very well, especially considering all that Emmanuel has experienced over the past few months, and expressed his appreciation to all for their time and effort. He is looking forward to working with Pastor Christine through this time of transition.

Learning: Stacy reported that the Pajama Party held during the Annual Meeting went very well. Little Lutherans will host a Pool Party at the YMCA on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Endowment: Did not meet.

Fellowship: Terrie reported that Fellowship met on 2/14. The Annual Meeting coffee hour was reviewed. The Fellowship Committee will host an extended coffee hour (with a gluten-free cake) to welcome Pastor Christine on February 26<sup>th</sup>. The Fellowship Committee also discussed hosting a game night for adults and/or a Pickleball event after Easter.

Human Resources: Did not meet.

Memorial: Did not meet.

Outreach: Patti reported that the Outreach Committee met on 2/12 and also sponsored the Souper Bowl of Caring canned soup collection on that date. Gail offered to help Patti deliver the soup to St. Vincent de Paul in Marinette. Outreach will also be assembling and delivering Easter baskets to about 18 shut-ins in April. At Council's request, Patti researched community needs for future Emmanuel Cares projects and learned that St. Vincent de Paul in Marinette has an ongoing need for linens. There was discussion regarding whether Council or the Outreach Committee would sponsor a linen collection to address this need.

Policies and Procedures: Nothing to report (No rep present)

Property: Jeremy reported that they are looking at brick samples for the chimney, which will be the big project this year. A contractor has been lined up. It's been brought to his attention that there are coffee stains in the Sanctuary. He will get a cleaning estimate. Council discussed prohibiting all food and drinks, except water, in the Sanctuary. The Property Committee is also looking into Honeywell thermostats to eventually replace ours. Also, watering the church lawn needs to be addressed as the water bill is very high. Cindy noted that the wall is splitting in the old bathroom and needs to be repaired. Council also discussed the proposed barrier between the kitchen and Fellowship Hall. Jeremy noted that the Property Committee previously received an estimate of several thousand dollars, which was deemed too expensive. It may be necessary to explore alternatives to a costly steel barrier.

Stewardship: Did not meet. Chris volunteered to be the Stewardship Committee Council Rep for this year.

Worship: Chris reported that the Worship and Fellowship Committees worked together to take down Christmas decorations on January 12<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Christine will preach at Emmanuel for the first time at Ash Wednesday services on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Shared midweek Lenten services will be held at Bethel beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>, with the theme of Learning/Teaching. Our Youth will be joining the Menominee High School culinary classes to make soup for the suppers preceding the midweek services. The free will offering collected at Lenten services will be donated to Menominee Area Public Schools. Pastor Christine will probably preach at the last Lenten service. The Maundy Thursday service will include First Communion. Details of Good Friday and Easter services to be determined.

**ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS**

Welcome for Pastor Christine Olson: Pastor Christine will preach at her first Sunday service at Emmanuel on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Because Matt will be out of town on that date, Terrie, as Vice-President, will introduce Pastor Christine at both services and invite the congregation to the extended coffee hour to be hosted by the Fellowship Committee.

Other: After discussion regarding Emmanuel Cares and the similarity of its mission with that of the Outreach Committee, it was decided that this Council initiative will be put on hold. Some suggested alternatives were Helping Hands, a group of handypersons to help members with small household jobs, and a Visitation Team to supplement Pastor Christine's visits to the homebound.

Matt adjourned the meeting at 8:05 on a motion by Stacy, seconded by Joanna, motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanna Magrane, Council Secretary