

Council Minutes January 2019

President Drew called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. on January 17, 2019. Present were Diane Lechman, Michele Merritt, Brandon Whittaker, Maria Gjovig, Craig Brunclik, Drew Ekstrom, Pete Peterson, Pastor Dwaine, and Pastor Melissa. Drew opened with prayer, after which we read together the identity and mission statement.

Pete presented the Treasurer's Report, which, assuming Council approval, will also be presented to the Congregation at the 1/27 meeting. We discussed several budget categories which appear to have been significantly overspent. Pete identified some of these and will look into others to decide how/whether to explain and/or change the figures before presenting them to the Congregation. MMSP to approve with this provision.

The Secretary's report was presented. MMSP to approve.

Pastor Dwaine reported that he's getting caught up on visitations, though many members have been experiencing health issues. He's been looking into other visitations of members who have no health issues but might benefit from a pastoral visit. Diane volunteered to help in identifying some of these. He also conducted an acoustical experiment to determine whether some sort of baffles would help reduce some of the sound echoes and distortion in the Fellowship Hall. The makeshift baffles helped, and he recommends installing some more permanent ones. He volunteered to help the Property ministry in this effort. He was also disappointed in the process of attending Council meetings via phone, so will not be doing that any more.

Pastor Melissa passed around a signup sheet for each ministry to take a Lenten Wednesday to serve and clean up supper. Another sheet was passed for Council members to sign up as communion helpers/money handlers. She also reported that a new member class will be held on February 24 at 0930, and she asked that each ministry and organization send a rep to describe their group's mission and encourage new members to participate. She also mentioned that we need a person who is likely to be present during most food-related events to be licensed

as a food handler. It was suggested that Pat would be a likely candidate. Pastor Melissa also reported that the SCF school district will recommend to the Board that they begin the work of establishing a day care facility in our building. Many details remain to be worked out but the process is beginning—Praise God! Pastor Melissa will report progress on this topic to the Congregation at the 1/27 meeting.

Brandon reported that Dallas Wynne has agreed to serve as Property's Liaison on the Council. Property has been busy with re-aligning and updating the sound system to avoid further problems like those that occurred at Christmas. They have also been getting quotes and planning for phased replacement of the old wooden fascia with something less maintenance-intense. If all goes well, they hope to begin in early summer, and will be seeking approval to solicit funds for the work. Brandon also described the nature of the work that needs to be done on the fire suppression sprinkler system to avoid the problem of inadequate water levels that we've experienced in the past. For now, the tanks, which are not connected to our wells, are being checked and filled manually via tanker truck. Property hopes that the school district will share in this expense as part of the capital improvements they'll be paying for before commencing day care operations. Several members expressed doubt that the district would be willing to bear this expense.

Maria reported that Youth's spaghetti dinner/silent auction fundraiser will be held February 1. Each ministry is asked to provide an auction item by 1/28.

Diane reported that Outreach is planning a low-key Feed My Starving Children fundraiser during February. The effort will ask families to donate the price of various types of meals. Outreach also plans to conduct Clothing Share events on April 7 and September 23. They would also like Peace to welcome Ann Knudson (Pat Carlson's sister-in-law) who would like visit in June to solicit contributions of painkillers and vitamins, plus cash to buy treadle water pumps, all of which she will bring and distribute during her Africa trip next summer. MMSP to approve all these requests.

Michele reported that Education is growing, with several new members joining, and will be making many changes in the process of educating our members of all ages.

Drew reported that more Council members have agreed to serve—most notably Linda Moore for a 3-year term from Parish Relations, John Haley for a 1-year term replacing Norma Lundgren on Parish Relations, and the aforementioned Dallas Wynne for a 3-year term on Property. MMSP to approve all these members, and present them to the Congregation for election on 1/27. Recruiting efforts need to continue to fill slots on Worship, Life/Growth, Stewardship, and Education ministries.

We discussed the agenda for the 1/27 congregational meeting. It was suggested that the budget proposal should be voted on by means of written ballots. In order to provide time to count the ballots before ending the meeting, it was suggested that the budget be presented early in the meeting. MMSP to approve the agenda with this change.

Drew reported that a local woman had requested information on renting our kitchen to pursue a food production venture for which she and her son are being trained. After some discussion, it was decided to table the request, pending further information about the size and scope of this venture. The as yet unknown need of the day care facility to make use of our kitchen is one reason we need more info before making any commitment.

Pete requested approval to buy a \$200 Menard's gift card for Ed Seekel to express our thanks for the many hours he has donated to help us upgrade our accounting system. There is money "left over" from military box shipping donations and poinsettia purchases to cover this cost. MMSP to approve, with our heartfelt thanks.

MMSP to adjourn, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete Peterson, Council Secretary