

**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 20, 2023**

PRESENT: Jeff Molitor (President) Kate Kurfess (via Zoom)
 Jaye Lill (Vice President) Sue Rasmussen (Treasurer)
 Rev Heidi Fish Paul Larmore

Guests:
Joan Minnis
Dave Dettman
Diane Brown
Marilyn Anderson

Meeting called to order by Jeff at 5:05pm

Devotions – Kate led in devotions.

Minutes from January meeting – January minutes were read and approved as amended.

Filling Council Secretary position: Judy will continue to type the minutes and Sue will take notes at the meeting. Discussion was held to consider adding another council member to fill the Secretary spot; no decision made. The council secretary is a member of the Executive Committee, and the role is to maintain records, keep congregational documents and participate in the council.

Treasurer's Report:

- Ended the Month of January well but we still need to reimburse the accounts from which money has been borrowed.
- The Finance Committee is continuing to work on the 2023 budget.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor asked for feedback on the new liturgy. Some have said it's too long, but it's getting better as folks are getting more comfortable with it. Paul said that the prayers are "downers"; Jaye feels the delivery is too long and requested a decrease in world, nation and church/congregation prayers. Both Paul and Jaye have given suggestions as to how we might tighten up/shorten the prayers.

OLD BUSINESS:

Plant Sale:

- It was decided that the proceeds from the plant sale will go toward care and maintenance of the Van.
- Dave reported on the logistics of running the sale on May 6th and a formal request has been made for council to fill out the necessary forms..
- Jeff wants to post the detailed proposal for the congregation to read and return comments that the Executive Committee will address.

M/S/P: To use Jeff's suggestion for the event request and hold the plant sale on May 5-6 according to what has been presented.

Alcohol Policy Consideration: Didn't get to.

Reconciling Works Update: Didn't get to.

Process for Event Approvals: Although we briefly went over the new form that was filled out by the Plant Sale Committee (see attached "Proposed Criteria for Council Re: Congregation-Sponsored Event – Bethesda Plant Sale"), we did not have time to review and edit the format proposed in July of 2021.

Growth Strategy: Didn't get to.

Constitutional Amendment followup: We didn't get to the discussion of the amendments tabled on 12-18-22 (C9.12 and C12.08).

NEW BUSINESS:

Katherine wants to restart Monday Night Dinners on the second and fourth Mondays of each month starting on March 27. Pastor expressed concern about our insurance coverage. Council **M/S/P** to allow the Monday Night Dinners pending Pastor being indemnified from any potential personal harm lawsuits.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee Report:

- Dave reported that we are looking into Quickbooks for the keeping of the Financial Records which should be in place by early summer.
- Need to arrange with Heritage Band regarding the points that Quickbooks will need.
- Also need to present a budget for 2023 to the congregation.
- Kate wants to be sure that we have in writing any temporary holds on Pastor's compensation
- **M/S/P:** to have Finance Committee develop a document for approval by congregation of accrual of Pastor's Salary if necessary.

Worship and Music:

Continues to meet about every 5 weeks to plan music for upcoming Sundays.

Facilities:

No Report at this time.

BCS:

Judy has attempted to contact One Green Planet to see if a recycling event date can be arranged. So far no word but she will keep at it.

Community Connections:

- We need to try to get more people involved. Perhaps we should revisit the mission for the Committee with an idea of how this will work.
- Jaye also asked if there will be a rummage sale in August.

PLACEHOLDERS Let's not forget:

- Bethesda's Estate Planning
- Growth of Church:
- Parlay with the Pastor: To encourage new membership by personal invites. Pastor suggested members host group meetings in their homes to discuss how.
- Update on insurance policies, specifically for Directors, Officers & Trustees ("DOT") coverage):
- Cost of fully insuring under DOT
- Review letter from Church Mutual
- Rental House – sell sometime in future?
- Mountlake Terrace Street Widening:

Meeting adjourned @ 7:30pm
Submitted in Christ's Service

Judy Rasmussen – Recording Secretary

Next Council Meeting: Monday 03/13/23 – 5:00pm in person and Zoom.
Devotions will be from Jaye Lill.