

Church Council Meeting Minutes

From meeting held May 9, 2017



Present: Carol Adair, Lisa Carr, Deb Clark, Jim Halverson, Aaron James and Robert Skutt

Absent: Bruce Batt, Christine Fuqua, Laurie Geschrey and Carol Radovich

- **Opening Prayer** – meeting was opened in prayer by Jim Halverson
- **Approval of Minutes** – minutes were approved as presented
- **Old Business**
 - **Search for Council Members** – Lisa is actively making phone calls to find interested volunteers. Deb Clark offered to serve the remaining one year of the open position previously held by Terry Aylesworth. A Council At-Large Member may not serve two full terms in a row, but By-Laws do not prevent one from serving a shorter term. **Action item: Slate will be published in the bulletin on Sunday.**
 - **Council Goal Review** – Major goals were reviewed and discussed.
 - **Reduce mortgage expense goal** – It was suggested we create a task force to review the viability of a Capital Campaign and what possible grants may be worth pursuing. Estimated time-frame is one year. In the meantime, we will continue to pursue refinancing. **Action item: Aaron to schedule meeting with Lisa, Carol A., and Drew Glassford (newer member with professional experience in this area) to develop task force overview and goals.**
 - **Council onboarding binder online** – Carol A. and Jim H. will be working to create a 'Council Cloud' where we can access our documents such as policies, by-laws, etc. with a goal to complete before month-end. A hard copy can be made for those who would like one. **Action items: Carol A. to set up 'cloud' and Jim H. to set up file system. Lisa to e-mail Jim current documents.**
 - **Council Committees**
 - **Policy/By-Law** – **Committee is meeting next week with the objective to provide Council a Table of Contents for the policy book and a prioritized schedule of policy review.**
 - **HR** – Based on member involvement survey, a few members may be interested in serving on this committee. **Committee is to be staffed by the end of May.** General goals are outlined in the Council Goal document and will be further reviewed and refined at the July 8 Council Retreat.
 - **Annual Program Meeting**
 - **Topics of Discussion** – Lisa and Aaron will provide updates on governance and ministry, keeping the focus future-forward. One member contacted Council to express concern over quorum count By-Law change; rationale for change was discussed and we will abide by the will of the congregation.
 - **Communications** – Slate will be published in the bulletin on Sunday. One member contacted Council to express concern over adherence to the By-Laws related to announcements about seeking new Council members and publishing information in advance. **Action item: Lisa to reply to member acknowledging our awareness of the issues and planned discussion at the meeting.** Practice within the church for the past many years has been similar to (and often less than) our current efforts. We are aware of the issues about complying with the By-Laws as written. We continue striving to adhere, if not to the letter of the By-Laws, to the spirit of them.

- **Mortgage Expense Reduction** – See notes above; the process for refinancing continues to move forward, but no final decision has been made. We are pursuing options at this point.
- **New Business**
 - **Treasurer's Report** – General information was shared about our favorable cash position. **A full Treasurer's report will be given at the June meeting when new Council members are in attendance.**
 - **Pastor's Report** – Provided, additionally, Pastor Aaron also requested our support to change the offering during the summer worship series. He would like to try a new format that would reduce time spent in service. Pastors will call attention to and offer congregational prayers for our spiritual giving but rather than passing baskets, attendees will be invited to place their offering in baskets at the back of the church (perhaps baskets will be held by ushers). Council supports the change during the summer series; both Council and Pastor Aaron recognize the need to watch and review how well it works and will be flexible to make changes as needed.
 - **Other**
 - Pastor Aaron brought up Hunter Glassford's Eagle Scout project – a butterfly/hummingbird garden within our Columbarium garden area. A fundraising component is included and Hunter would like to make an announcement in church on Sunday, May 14. We are grateful he has chosen our church as the beneficiary of his project. Council is in agreement that we support Hunter in his efforts and it must be made clear that the fundraising is not part of the Columbarium project. Council was also reminded that our objective is to move away from making individual decisions and toward creating policies that allow for efficient administration.
 - Pastor Aaron also made a request for shortened summer hours for the church office. Church staff will be available as needed (for example, Hilltop Supper days), but with a generally lighter work load this provides flexibility for staff. This is also a way to show appreciation other than financially. Council supports the recommendation.
 - Lisa brought up the bingo-night event on Friday, June 30. Ronda Feller is leading the effort and asked that various teams and committees within the church support the effort with silent auction basket donations. **Council members agreed to each give \$20.00 for the creation of 1 or 2 baskets for the event. Carol A., Robert and Lisa have contributed – those who have not are asked to give their donations to Lisa at or before our next meeting.**
- **Closing Prayer** – the meeting was closed in prayer led by Lisa.
- **Next meeting is Tuesday, June 13 at 6:30 pm**

Submitted in faith by Lisa Carr