

Meeting called to order at 7.08pm by President Dale Gruenewald. Those in attendance were Mary Lou Peter, Kim Mueller, Charlotte Mehrtens, Rich Hoffelmeyer, Earl Doerr, Bob Timmer, Dale Gruenewald, Kathi Trent, Stacy Woehlke and Pastor Weber; pre-arrangements had been made to have Vicki Pellmann join the meeting in-progress to present Treasurer's Report. Pastor opened with a prayer.

**Guest:** Lee Eggemeyer graciously joined council at the top of the meeting to provide advice about the Office Administrator/Financial Treasurer position, including qualities the hiring committee should be looking for. Also discussed pros/cons of Church Windows program and the possibility of switching to another program such as QuickBooks. Council went into Executive Session for further discussion.

**BCE report:** Pastor presented the report as provided by Sean Mahoney. BCE welcomed Jeri Arnold to the board and gave thanks to Krista Gruenewald for serving consecutive terms.

Younger Sunday School classes are set with their learning materials for the rest of the year and Pastor supplied the post-confirmation class with a series by Ray Vander Laan that the teens have taken an interest in. The board is in the middle of plans to provide a thank you gift to this year's teachers instead of the traditional end-of-year dinner as well as investigating something to do for the Sunday School kids.

No upcoming plans have been made for the youth due to virtual burn out, although hopes are high to continue activities during the summer. Vacation Bible School is currently being planned for July with last year's unused theme and materials. Stacy motioned to accept the BCE report; Kathi seconded. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's report:** Vicki presented her report from January and mentioned the interest hadn't been added because interest wasn't available from all the accounts. Direction was given that as the interest gets credited (as it was by Edward Jones), it should be added, regardless of whether we have the interest from other accounts. Rich also noted that more interest is being credited to In Loving Trust than should be and it was agreed that non-In Loving Trust interest should be accounted for separately.

Rich questioned the charge from Vanco as being too high. Vicki explained that she's still working with the company to get fees straightened out and credits correctly applied to our account.

Some questions arose around memorial donations and the reporting of them being inconsistent. Kim requested that Vicki go back to delineating individual memorial donations for clarity.

Rich pointed out that budget numbers needed to be updated to 2021 rather than 2020. Rich motioned to table the treasurer's report until the discrepancies could be addressed; Bob seconded. Motion carried.

In other financial matters, Vicki asked whether we would be collecting for the Easter Lilies this year and council agreed we should proceed.

Vicki also brought up the matter of the safe deposit box at Central bank reaching capacity. We currently pay a reduced fee of \$8 per year and she requested the approval to switch to a larger box at \$30 per year. Bob motioned to upgrade to a larger box; Kim seconded. Motion carried.

**Minutes:** Minutes for January regular council meeting had previously been emailed for review. Bob motioned to accept January regular council meeting minutes; Charlotte seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes for the January 14 Special council meeting were reviewed. Rich motioned to accept the January 14 special meeting minutes; Bob seconded. Motion carried.

**Pastor's report:** Now that Pastor has received his full vaccination, he is eligible again to be called in to Memorial Hospital as chaplain; he is next on call February 18th.

Reducing the video quality for the Live streaming seems to be working as a temporary solution until the internet service can be upgraded by Charter. The Office Admin/Financial Treasurer job opening has been posted to the Church website as has the link for e-giving.

Pastor and Bill Savering will be alternating weeks during lent to provide the message during Lenten services, and Maundy Thursday will once again have a message in lieu of the dramatic presentation.

Regarding the confirmation class, Faith presentations will occur on March 21st, with Confirmation on March 28th and First Communion on Easter Sunday, April 4th. Aubrey Weaver of last year's class, will be joining this year's class of Lukas Pellmann, Ava Stumpf and Emma Stumpf for Confirmation and First Communion services since she missed out last year. Bob motioned to accept Pastor's report; Rich seconded. Motion carried.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Audit & Budget:** Rich provided notes and reflections from the audit process. Council will review the notes for further discussion next month.

**Long Range Ministry:** Stacy had nothing to report.

**Mission & Outreach:** Mary Lou emphasized the generosity of donations for the different mission projects over the past month.

**Staff/Parish Relations:** Kim had to leave the meeting early, though Stacy did note that one application for the Office Administrator/Financial Treasurer had been received and would be forwarded to the hiring committee.

**Property:** Earl reported the clock in the tower is again working and keeping time thanks to the efforts of Rich Hoffelmeyer. The furnace is also being regularly checked and is in good shape.

**Volunteer Ministries:** Kathi had nothing to report.

**Worship & Music:** Discussed the need for some work around contemporary music during service. It has been relayed that many members struggle with the new music so we need to investigate how to make the contemporary music portion more accessible and enjoyable for the congregation.

**Cemetery Board:** Charlotte had to leave the meeting early

**Old Business:** Vicki presented pricing from a Belleville company for both new and refurbished AED units and the possibility of investing in two: one for each floor. Pastor asking Vicki to reach out to the company about the possibility of getting two refurbished units.

**New Business:** Mary Lou suggested a review of the safe deposit box contents to see if some things could be removed. Rich pointed out that Vicki and Pastor are the only signers on the box. Pastor noted it would be better if the Council President replaced the pastor as the second signer on the box as it's generally best to keep the pastor's position separate from financial matters. Rich motioned to replace Pastor with the Council President as second signer for the safe deposit box; Kathi seconded. Motion carried,

Council discussed the usual Easter morning schedule of Sunrise service at 7am, breakfast at 8am, Sunday School at 9am and second service at 10am. Council agreed to forgo breakfast this year due to ongoing covid difficulties. Sunrise service will now be at 8am with Sunday School still at 9am and second service still at 10am. Council also agreed that the Easter Egg hunt for the Sunday School classes should still go on as usual.

Rich made motion to adjourn; Mary Lou seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

President - Dale Gruenewald

Secretary - Stacy Woehlke