

St Stephen Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes - May 10, 2021

Ken Smith called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm via ZOOM.

Present: Pastor Jim Woodruff, Betsy Clark, Paul Colaizy, Kristen Duffy, Patsy Olson, Ted Schaff, Chris Sheldon, Ken Smith, Mira Stearns, Abby Ternus

Absent: Marta Honstadt

Devotions – Pastor Jim Woodruff – Psalm 48 ‘Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death.’ As council, we make decisions to move the congregation forward. We commit this time and discussion to God. He will be our guide forever.

Prayer Concerns: Julie Skudlarski and Margery King family upon their deaths, Paul – Rebecca Sheldon’s father.

Approval of April 2021 Minutes – Amend to read, under New Business, ‘a motion was made by Chris Sheldon, not Ken Smith; 2nd by Mira Stearns to disband the Covid Team.’

A motion was made by Betsy Clark; 2nd by Chris Sheldon to approve the April 2021 Council minutes ‘as amended’. Voted on and carried.

Adjustments to the Agenda - Under New Business remove - WBL Boxing Club parking lot use (car wash).

Treasurer’s Report – Patsy Olson

Reports received.

Current Fund: negative \$2,550.02 Capital Fund: \$118,295.86 Benevolence Fund \$1,199.97

Special Designated Fund: \$79,905.91 Cash Reserve Fund: \$21,820.59

Note that the Current Fund balance does not reflect the Edward Jones deposit.

A motion was made by Abby Ternus; 2nd by Ted Schaff to approve the Treasurers Report. Voted on and carried.

Pastor’s Reports – Pastor Jim Woodruff

All worship services and small group activities have returned to in-person as well as Online Sunday Morning Services and GAP Live Streaming. Attendance at all services is slowly increasing. Some senior fellowship lunches will soon be resuming off campus. We continue to watch Covid infection numbers hoping that we can continue with in-person worshiping and gathering. The Sanctuary Video, Audio, Lighting Project has a vendor and a signed contract. The fund-raiser for this project is off to a great start

in raising approximately \$9500.00 to date. The COVID Response Team continue to meet and update our Covid policies in following the Minnesota Department of Health guidelines.

Pastor Jim Woodruff reported that Pastor Juli Thompson continues with resuming in-person visits to those fully vaccinated plus 2 weeks beyond final vaccination date.

Ministry Team Reports

Betsy Clark reported that Worship and Music have recently met and reviewed the AV Project and upcoming hymns, the COVID Response Team is scheduled to meet May 13, Staff Relations meet May 13 to discuss the preliminary Digital Ministry job description and soloists for hymns thru May 30th and Finance Team is scheduled to meet again in June.

A motion was made by Patsy Olson; 2nd by Mira Stearns to approve the Pastor and Ministry Team Reports. Voted on and approved.

New Business

Covid Statistics – Ken Smith

Graphing was presented showing Minnesota reported Covid infection rates. Statewide the numbers are dropping rapidly. Ramsey County reported cases were a little higher. Over-all the situation is steadily improving. Discussion ensued on the Governors recent new guidelines and how they effect churches. At this time, our church Fall events are expected to resume.

Updating Covid Policies (review timeline) – Pastor Jim Woodruff

The CRT Team is scheduled to meet this Thursday, May 13 to discuss and recommend any revisions to our current Covid policy. As Church council approval and vote are needed, the team will email recommended changes to council members by Friday, May 14th. All council members to review the CRT Team recommended changes before the scheduled Monday, May 17, 7:00 pm ZOOM special council meeting in being prepared to discuss, amend if needed and vote to adopt the revised guidelines. Ken Smith will send further information on this.

Old Business

Video System, Fundraising Status, Staff Relations, New AV Position Updates – Pastor Jim Woodruff and Patsy Olson

The video system has a vendor and signed contract. To date \$9500. has been raised. This does not include the Cruisers Challenge Match or Memorial gifts. Staff Relations are drafting a new AV job description.

Furnace #1 Replacement week of May 10 – Ted Schaff

This project is scheduled for May 17th with completion end of June. Custodians have been prepping for this project and marking disconnects for easier installation.

Review Meeting Highlights

Reminder of the upcoming July 30th, 2021 Relay For Life event being captained by Viki Bosin. Once again, due to Covid, this event will not be in its full physical form. More details forthcoming. Ken Smith will pass on to Tami tonight's council meeting highlights and updates (CRT, furnace, video system, fundraiser, Relay For Life) to share with congregants.

A motion to adjourn was made by Kristen Duffy; 2nd by Ken Smith. Voted on and carried.

Ken Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:12 pm.

Pastor Jim Woodruff closed and led the council in The Lord's Prayer.

Next regularly scheduled council meeting is June 14, 2021, 7:00 pm.

A 'special' council meeting has been scheduled for Monday, May 17th, 7:00 pm via ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Cinis