**CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES**

**FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

March 19, 2024

**Present**

Jim Hall (President), Gary Nelson (Secretary), Retta Hennessy (Pre-School),

Kathy Dibadj (Stewardship),), Beth Sells (Communications), Mike Rahm (Property)

Joe & Kelly Parratore (Faith Formation), Jen Bair (Service), Senior Pastor Shelly Satran,

Karen Finerty (Worship), Associate Pastor Julie Peterson

**Absent**

Tim Hohulin (Treasurer)

**Guests**

**Opening Devotions and Prayer**

Retta

**Call to Order**

* Meeting called to order by President Jim Hall at 7:05 pm
* Blessings in Ministry for the past month. Uplifted: Holden Evening Prayer led by Andrew and Maggie Sells. Vacation Bible School is at capacity with 100 children registered. Children from Faith registered increased from 22 to 54.

**Approval of Minutes**

* **MOTION**: To approve the minutes of the Congregation Council meeting held on

February 20, 2024. (Jen/Kathy) **Carried.**

**Consent Agenda**

* **MOTION** To accept the reports of the Faith ministries and staff. (Jen/Kathy) **Carried.**

**New Members**

No new members.

**Financial Report**

Jim Hall on behalf of Tim discussed highlights of the February financial statements including:

* Regular envelopes are down $13.9k from budget and $.5k from prior year.
* YTD regular envelopes are down $39.8k from budget and $6.6k vs. the prior year.
* Salaries, Housing & Benefits are below budget as Kayla’s Deacon raise is included in the budget and will not go into effect until she is called.
* Congregational activities are higher than budget due to payment of Synod Convention registration and a six-month supply of coffee purchased.
* Insurance is above budget due to the Workers’ Compensation audit adjustment.
* Net loss of $16.0k compares to net income in 2023 of $11.9k which reflected the prior year's anonymous donation of $12.0k. YTD is off $47.8k.

**Old Business**

*Volunteer Engagement*

* Retta shared an update on the garden project next to the driveway. Projected to be installed by May 1. She engaged with Rainbow Place to have students give out seeds and plants on Mother’s Day.
* Mike recruited Dan Minkus to explore Geothermal solutions with Dave Buss.
* Many volunteers were recruited to help with the Easter Egg Hunt.
* Beth recruited Heather Ristanovic for the Prayer Project.
* Karen recruited 9 volunteers to the Worship Committee: Communion Deacons, Live Streaming, Lectors, and Altar Guild.
* Kathy recruited 2 volunteers for the Stewardship Committee.
* Pastor Shelly recruited 3 volunteers to take Blood Pressure on Sundays and Gayle Minkus to apply her technical expertise in the office.
* Jim Recruited Chris Bettin as an Event Photographer in conjunction with Jim.

*Surplus Benevolence*

Jen recommended we apply the $5K surplus:

* $1K to DuPage United
* $2K to Refuge and Immigration Services
* $2K to the Global Refuge Group
* Motion to apply the surplus as presented. (Jen/Kathy) Carried.

**New Business**

*Growth Needs*

A Task Force will be organized to proactively assess ways to maximize space utilization and determine how to best meet needs now and projected needs in the future. Beth Sells, Mike Rahm, and Pastor Shelly will join the task force and Jim will seek 2-3 additional participants from the congregation. The group will attempt to take a ”walk-through” of the building during the Christian Education hour on a Sunday in April to understand how space is currently used during one of the busiest times.

*Sanctuary Ambiance*

There was a discussion on member feedback on the noise/distraction level of the blessing of so many young children in our congregation during services. This is at a time when most churches are looking to attract young families. There is a plan under consideration for the Fall to provide a Children’s Chapel during the Sermon with children returning for Communion.

*Endowment Fund Audit*

The report by the Audit committee noted the agreement of the Endowment Fund balance with the assets of the fund and reviewed the GL activity, noting no unusual results. “We have no items or recommendations to bring to your attention.”

*Deacon Call*

Kayla will be completing her education and training in May.

* In May the Council will meet to approve and extend the call.
* In June the Congregation will meet to vote on the call.

*Closing Prayer*

Retta

*Adjournment*

Jim adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by: Gary Nelson, Secretary