

**CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES
FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

November 8, 2021

Present

Bill Alrich (President), Chris Bettin (Secretary), Tim Hohulin (Treasurer), Tammy Daugherty (Communications), Phil Hartweg (Safety), Kelly and Joe Parratore (Faith Formation), Mark Pedersen (Property), Debbie Rohla (Service), Deb Twaddle (Worship), Pr. Shelly Satran, Pr. Joe Yucha

Excused

Sandy Becker (Stewardship)

Call to Order

- The meeting, which was held via Zoom, was called to order by President Bill Alrich at 7:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

- **MOTION** (Tim/Phil): To approve the minutes of the Congregation Council meeting held on October 11, 2021. (Carried)

Consent Agenda

- **MOTION** (Deb T./Tammy): To accept the reports of the Faith ministries and staff. (Carried)

Financial Report

- Treasurer Tim Hohulin reported that October regular envelope giving was down \$2,300 vs. budget but above prior year giving by \$2,800. Year-to-date regular envelope giving was above the prior year by \$21,900 but still \$22,300 below budget.
- Total revenue is \$38,900 below budget year to date due to special envelope giving being lower by \$15,200. However, overall the budget is in a net income position of \$6,600 and above budget by \$5,600, according to Tim.
- The salary and benefits budget lines were positively impacted due to Todd Carrico's retirement.
- Utilities were below budget in October due to mild weather.
- Since the beginning of 2021, the cash balance is down \$180,000.
- The Rainbow budget broke even in October.

Old Business

Insurance Update

- President Alrich reported that bids to replace Church Mutual as Faith's insurance provider were obtained and that the proposal from GuideOne Insurance, a niche-market

insurer based in West Des Moines, Iowa, and one of the largest church insurers in the United States, was the most attractive option. The contract with Church Mutual expires on 11/12/21.

- After some discussion, the Council selected GuideOne as Faith's new insurance company.
- **MOTION** (Tim/Debbie R.): To approve the proposal from GuideOne to become the new insurance provider for Faith Church. (Carried)

Worship Update

- Council discussed what would be involved with returning communion to the way it was done prior to the pandemic.
- Pr. Shelly Satran took a straw poll of the Council members to see what aspects of the pre-pandemic way of doing communion they miss the most. Many responses were given, including coming forward to receive communion, receiving a blessing, gathering at the altar railing, receiving communion from the pastors and deacons, etc.
- The possibility of using a process similar to intinction was proposed.
- Ultimately the Council decided that now was not the right time to change the current way of doing communion for safety reasons, but to keep this topic on the Council's radar as the pandemic evolves.

55 N. Park

- Pr. Joe Yucha gave a brief update on the status of 55 N. Park since obtainment of the construction permit in October.
- He reported that hopefully the new foundation will be in place by Thanksgiving.

Rainbow Place

- Council received October minutes from Rainbow Board Liaison Joe Parratore (Faith Formation) to review.
- Pr. Joe updated the Council that Rainbow secured a second grant from the 2021 Childcare Restoration Grant funded by the federal government via the Illinois Department of Human Services for July through September. All told, Rainbow received grants for January through March and July through September but was not approved for a grant from April through June.

Reconciling in Christ Initiative

- Pr. Joe reported that the discussion on the RIC initiative which took place during Adult Forum on October 17 and 24 will help frame the writing of Faith's new Welcome Statement.
- An additional Adult Forum to discuss the statement will be held in December.
- The goal is to have a draft statement for the membership to consider at the Congregation meeting in January 2022.

Nominating Committee

- Deb Twaddle (Worship), who is leading the Nominating Committee's work to fill the slate of candidates for open Council and other positions at Faith, reported on the status of the committee's work which is nearly complete.
- Council decided to review and vote on the slate of candidates via email between the November and December Council meetings.

Music Director Search

- Deb and Pr. Shelly reported that there have been several strong candidates during the second round of applications, with three interviews scheduled for this week.

Building Maintenance

- Mark Pedersen (Property) reported that the shingled roof will be completed this week, with work on the wrap-around flat roof, installation of the gutters, and addition of interior insulation in certain parts of the church to follow. The cost of the insulation will be approximately \$12,000.
- Mark reported that a three-year maintenance agreement has been signed, with an option to renew after the three-year period.
- Proposals for work on the HVAC system are being obtained.

New Business

Congregation Meeting

- The Congregation Meeting is confirmed for January 30, 2022. It will be back in person after conducting the meeting via Zoom in January 2021. The meeting will also be live-streamed.
- A budget forum will be held two weeks prior to the Congregation meeting during which Treasurer Hohulin will outline the proposed 2022 budget and answer questions from attendees.

Closing Prayer

- Chris Bettin

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Chris Bettin, Secretary