

Council Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2023

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:25 AM by President Steve. Council members present were Steve Bennett, Amanda Hawkins, Karen Idler, Bob Linkugel, Jack Harris, Rick Brown John Van Auker, Lisa Achen and Betty Noreen.

Scott Stonestreet, Adult Education

Scott leads Adult Education on Sundays at 9:00 AM. This is not Bible Study but rather video based. He did *Archeology of the Bible* and *The Chosen* series season one last year. This year he will begin with *The Historical Jesus* followed by the movie *Luther* for three Sundays leading up to Reformation Sunday. He will continue with *The Chosen Season 2* after that. Average attendance is about 12-14 people. Scott is concerned about the noise level coming from the kitchen during class. Steve will follow up with the office for making a sign, perhaps a sandwich board type to put on the serving table outside the kitchen to request a respectful noise level during class time. The video library at church needs attention and monitoring for borrowing videos. Scott is providing videos for his class. Junior and Senior HS youth are welcome to come. To encourage young adults to participate, we could include an invitation in the weekly and stress that they don't have to stay for church to attend class. Perhaps the class name could change to something more welcoming, and food (fruit/donuts) could be provided. The church would reimburse Scott for that expense. Lisa will talk with Lauren for ideas on how to include young adults.

Scott participated in a discussion regarding the trenching for the water lines (See property updates).

Devotions

Karen began devotions with a reading from *This is How We Begin*, based on Matthew 13:8 regarding the Sower of seeds. The reading noted that we don't know where the good soil is. What might look like thorns could actually be productive soil. Our role is to sow seeds wherever we can and let God do the growing. She followed the reading with prayer.

We then discussed Chapter Six of *Growing Young*, "Prioritize Young People (and Families) Everywhere...From Rhetoric to Reality." She posed the question, "How much would your church give up to reach young people?" We reflected on the demographics of Meadow Vista, which are changing from 91% white and median age of 49.2 years. We need to know who our neighbors are. We do not have language barriers but we do have style of worship preference differences. Families are coming with small children who are looking for a rural experience. Parent assistance and services would be welcomed. Moving from good intention to actual action is the challenge. Is FLC ready for change? We will encourage youth to become involved in all areas of ministry and appreciate what they have to offer, especially on the worship committee and church council. We will be intentional about getting one or two youth on church council and encourage all FLC ministries to identify and invite youth participants and be open to hearing and implementing their ideas. Prioritizing youth means prioritizing families,

including outreach. *God's Work, Our Hands* planted many seeds in the community last Sunday with a very good community response. FLC counselors and educators should be included in the post-survey discussion with families and young adults, to generate ideas, date to be determined. We need to help youth identify their gifts and encourage them to take on "load bearing" roles in the FLC community. Our budget reflects our priorities as do time and resources.

Betty will lead the discussion of Chapter Seven next month.

Mission, Vision and Values

Lisa read the vision, mission and values statements.

Minutes

The minutes from August 20 were distributed by email prior to the meeting. Upon motion by Rick and second by Jack, the minutes as written were approved unanimously.

Executive Reports

President: Submitted his report by email prior to the meeting.

Treasurer: Lisa's reports were distributed by email prior to the meeting. Appreciation was expressed to Lisa and our bookkeeper.

Pastor: Submitted her report by email prior to the meeting. Money for sound equipment was discussed in new business.

Old Business

Property updates:

Water Leak to Education Building: Hoppers came Thursday morning and trenched on the far side of the driveway. They removed the St. John's Wart plants which need to be transferred to the landfill. About five feet before the pavement they found Class good class 140 pipe. They replaced the class 125 pipes. They filled in the trench, but it needs smoothing with stiff rakes. We will ask Sam Hawkins to coordinate a work force for cleaning up. Hoppers did a very professional job at a reasonable rate and would be a good source for future plumbing needs.

Doors: Jan Halderman, a local major contractor, might be available. Mike Phillips is retired. Another option is to modify the existing doors and add new hardware, including windows and a longer secure post in the center. Locking system would have both key and code. Security is the primary goal. We need to move forward. We can solicit a contractor through "Next Door" and "Facebook." Jack and Rick will work on drafting the post.

Sound System: Pastor requested the council approve funds for a second pack set. Upon motion by Karen and second by Lisa, the council unanimously approved \$500.00 to purchase the new sound equipment.

Appreciation for Lauren Achen: Lisa left the room for this discussion. Upon motion by Rick and second by Amanda, the council unanimously approved a \$2,000.00 scholarship for Lauren in appreciation for her contribution to the youth program.

Congregational Survey Follow Up: Pastor's plan to invite 40-ish and younger members for conversation has yet to be scheduled.

New Business

Stewardship Campaign: Karen and John reported that Pastor will send out a series of three letters to congregational members: campaign information, pledge cards and thank-you letters. For three Sundays in the Stewardship Series, a mission partner will give a talk at the end of worship for about four minutes regarding stewardship: Gathering Inn director, Lauren from Kid's Place, and a Congregational Member on Commitment Sunday, October 29.

Narrative Budget: Lisa is creating a narrative budget that will be connected to the mission statement, separating our mission's three components and showing what we do that connects to each component. Amanda requested that she include a "Growing Young" section.

Thirty-Hour Famine: Amy Dieter is directing the thirty-hour famine on October 6-7. Lisa, Amanda and Betty are interested in being involved. Lisa will work with Amy to see how we can support her.

New Council Members: We will need at least three and perhaps four new council members in 2024 to achieve a total of 9 or 10 council members. Jack, Lisa and Bob prefer not to continue. We will start talking with potential members and bring names to the October meeting. We agreed that we will make a conscious intention to include at least one youth/young adult and perhaps two. We need a more demographically balanced membership to achieve diversity.

Prayer and Healing Ministry: Betty will pass the following prayer requests to Ann Linkugel:

- The Synod, for the new Bishop Jeff Johnson and staff during the transition.
- Schools in October, for teachers and students in this challenging month.
- Doors, for finding a good solution.
- Threshold Choir, for more people to have access to what the choir does.
- Young adults and families, for FLC's "growing young."
- Lay Leader Tasks, for more diversity in the signups, i.e. more men and youth, and specifically for new readers.

Adjourn

Upon motion by Bob and second by John and with unanimous agreement, the meeting was adjourned at 1:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Betty Noreen