

Council Minutes: May 23, 2017

In Attendance:

MaryAnn Sinwell, Jim Lewis, Mack Flood, Fred Schamber, Bill Lavallee, Bob Jordan, Amy Foust, Leanne Salava . Also: Howard Weigold and Don Schultze (newly elected council members)

Devotions: Bob Jordan – Dealing with adversity (Romans 5:3-5)

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made to approve the minutes of April 19, 2017 with correction of wording of annual theme (“you will” to be replaced by “you’ll” in two places).

Pastor’s Report (No Pastor’s report during vacancy.)

Financial Report (Bill Lavallee)

The April ‘Fund Balances’ report shows an end-of-month bank account balance of \$104,599 of which \$50,301 is in designated funds. The April cash flow (contributions minus expenses) was a positive \$9,582 for the month. For the fiscal year-to-date (November through April) the cash flow is a positive \$24,461.

Though the congregation has been accruing benevolence funds at the budgeted 5% rate, the council has not authorized their disbursement until now. However, in view of the cash balance at mid-fiscal-year a motion was made, seconded, and carried to release one quarter’s worth of the benevolences that have been withheld so far this fiscal year. (This amounts to about \$3000.) The specific recipients will be designated by the Social Ministry Committee.

Ministry Team Reports: See also printed reports.

Worship and Music :

Bob reports that Matt Lobe has been offered a position out of the area, beginning in August, and it is anticipated he will be accepting. Thus his successor must be sought in a timely fashion.

Christian Education:

Amy reports that the William Penn ministry is struggling: the number of youth participants is small, and also the participation of residents has shrunk (the participation at Wm. Penn is currently low).

Property:

- Planning a Versa-Lok wall to replace the current wooden wall at the driveway entry using the blocks already on hand.

- Discussing with Boy Scouts a possible project to install some sort of restraint which would ensure that vehicles don't go over the edge of the lower parking lot.
- Additional commemorative bricks for the flagpole project have been received, but aren't yet installed.
- Looking at acquiring some extra chairs available from a church that is closing.
- Neither of the two contractors contacted has yet produced an estimate for soffit and fascia maintenance.

Communications:

An email from John Salava was read expressing concern about a presently inactive member (one who has publicly declared his non-intention to worship at Emmanuel or support the congregation due to various perceived grievances) who presented himself at the most recent Worship and Music Ministry Team meeting and proceeded to express himself in a disruptive manner on matters that are not germane to the work of this team. During discussion of this situation it was noted that C12.16.06 of the Bylaws states: "Ministry Team meetings shall be open to all members of congregation, who shall have voice without vote at the discretion of the presiding member of the team." In further discussion, the council agreed that the best course was to take no further action unless there is repetition of this behavior. If that situation arises, the disruptive individual should be advised that his privilege to speak is being curtailed per C12.16.06. In the case that the individual refuses to comply and persists in disruptive behavior, disciplinary action per Chapter 15 of the constitution would be the last resort.

Old Business

Pulpit Supply

Fred reported that supply pastors are scheduled through the end of May, and that June is being filled.

Website

Amy has already paid for a year of maintenance. We have gotten \$250 of Thrivent Action Team money for supporting the team that works on the Website. Motion made, seconded, carried that the Thrivent Choice committee be asked to approve the expenditure of \$250 for the Website setup fee.

New Business

Followup to Town Hall Meeting

It was felt that this Town Hall concept had proven very successful and should be repeated.

The attendees were divided into three working groups to deal with three topics:

Ministry Team Streamlining:

This working group recommended that the current ministry teams be consolidated into four as follows:

- Physical - Property
- Activities (Christian Life) – Evangelism, Fellowship, Youth & Family Ministry
- Spiritual – Worship & Music, Christian Education
- Financial – Social Ministry, Finance, Stewardship

Financial Situation:

This working group discussed various options for addressing the congregation’s long-term and short-term financial outlook.

Community Outreach:

This working group discussed the proposed Soup Walk and various other possibilities for greater visibility in our community.

Council follow-up to the Town Hall meeting:

- It’s proposed that Ministry Team reorganization be a topic for discussion at the Council Retreat.
- An attempt will be made to schedule the Council Retreat in June.
- If the Ministry Team structure is altered, the Bylaws will need to be revised and the appropriate congregation meeting will need to be scheduled.
- Should the Constitution be modified so that the pastor is not a voting member of the council?

Follow-up to Scotus Actions

Bob reported on a webinar he audited regarding the legal implications of the Supreme Court decisions on same-sex marriage. Essentially, the ruling cannot affect the doctrinal positions and practices of the church. However, as we are a public accommodation, it is critical that we have clear statements in our Constitution and Bylaws and adhere to them. It was noted that the NALC has already published some guidelines on this topic.

Ready-access CD

It was noted that our congregation funds are currently held in a non-interest account. It was suggested that a “Ready Access Certificate of Deposit” might be suitable for our purposes. Questions were raised as to whether receiving investment interest might require the congregation to file a tax return. This will be further investigated by Finance.

Adjournment:

Motion made, seconded, and carried to adjourn.

Next meeting: June 20, Bill has devotions. No Ministry Team guest.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Fred Schamber (Secretary)