

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES

Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at Ely United Methodist Church

Call To Order: Chair Sheri Rue called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM.

Attendees (14): Cathy Aldrich, Marge Forsberg, Craig Haberman, Linda Hane, Mark & Margie Olson, Sheri Rue, Patty & Bryan Rusco, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson, Pam Turnbull, Anna Urbas and Chris Urbas.

Opening: Margie Olson provided a prayer for the opening devotion.

Minutes: One correction was noted in the April 17, 2024 minutes that had been distributed previously to the Ad Council members: In the Pastor-Parish report, the correct date for Pastor Craig's retirement party is June 16, not June 19. Margie Olson moved that we approve the minutes as corrected; second by Pam Turnbull. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: The April 2024 Treasurer's report was presented by Mark Olson. Current balances are \$50,312 in the General Fund, \$20,128.79 in the Building Fund and \$19,715.67 in the Memorial Fund. Motion to accept by Jay Tomlinson; second by Marge Forsberg. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Trustees:** Bryan Rusco reported that they have been focused on the overflow room/kitchenette project and the camera replacement. Pam Turnbull reported that for the overflow room/kitchenette project the floor has been buffed and sealed with some sealant donated by Scott Meland; some painting has been done; the counter top is coming this next week and then BJ Rusco will install the sink.
2. **Pastor-Parish Relations:** Cathy Aldrich reported we still do not have a pastor. She exchanged emails with Susan Nienaber from the MN Conference and was informed that we will probably need to arrange for pulpit support after June 16. Cathy will be connecting again with Susan to learn more about possible Conference resources for help with that. It was agreed that we'll all need to work together to keep the church going in that case. Cathy also reported on Pastor Craig's June 16 retirement party and submitted a completed Project/Event Proposal Form that outlined the specifics of the event and the estimated cost for promotion of the event - through mailed invitations and ads in a couple issues of the Ely Echo and the Ely Shopper as well as the food, drinks and decorations - would be \$1,220. Bryan Rusco moved that we approve the proposal; second by Linda Hane. During the discussion it was recommended that \$1500 would probably be a better estimate. Bryan Rusco amended his motion to make that change; Linda Hane seconded the amendment. Motion carried.
3. **Worship:** Linda Hane reported that the committee met on April 29. Senior Sunday will be May 19 to recognize our only high school graduate this year: Matt Johnson. A cake has been ordered and Margie is making a fleece blanket for him as a gift from the congregation. MN Annual Conference will be in a couple weeks with Pastor Craig, Jay Tomlinson, Sheri Rue, Cathy Aldrich and Patty Rusco attending. They will provide reports about the Conference to the congregation during our June 23 worship service. The committee will meet again on Monday, June 10 at 2:30 PM.
4. **Education:** Chris Urbas reported that she'll be continuing Sunday School for the next two weeks ending with Memorial Weekend. She brought up the difficulty of teaching a group of children that include toddler & pre-school age children and wondered if we could look into setting up a Nursery

Service for when we have smaller children attending. Sheri Rue will meet with Chris to discuss some ideas and recommended we mention this need in the Sunday bulletin and in *Parish News*.

5. **Connections:** Jay Tomlinson reported that the committee met on May 14 with two new members, Kathy Nelson and Anna Urbas and discussed:
 - Updates to the Connections Committee Responsibilities for the Church Handbook
 - Dinner initiative involving groups of church members getting together monthly for lunch or dinner. Kathy Nelson is working on details of how this might be implemented this fall.
 - New possible initiatives to explore: (1) a new resident visitation team, (2) church member visitation team, (3) first day of school kick-off breakfast, (4) providing church services at the BWCC and Carefree Living and (5) more frequent Food Shelf drives. The group decided to focus first on the Food Shelf initiative.
 - The committee also developed a list of single words for the Church Vision & Values as requested previously by Ad Council Chair Sheri Rue: Inclusiveness, Hospitality, Love, Benevolence, Reverent, Caring, Prayerful, Agape-Love, Participation and Cooperation.
 - Reviewed and assessed old initiatives, some of which are still in place such as the Prayer Shawls, and others that have been discontinued. Some additional ideas were discussed.
 - It was pointed out that Connections needs more committee members to fulfill all responsibilities and each current member was asked to invite one other person from the congregation to join Connections.
 - Regular monthly meeting time will now be the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM. The next one will be on June 4.
6. **Memorial:** Marge Forsberg reported that the committee met on Monday, May 7. \$7,090 of the Memorial Fund account had been designated for the Fellowship Hall project. To date, \$2,302.84 has been paid out, leaving \$4,787.26. Their next meeting will be Tuesday August 20 and will focus on plans for Memorial Sunday to be held on All Saints Sunday (November 3).
7. **UMW:** Margie Olson reported that the UMW is hosting the Rummage Sale at the Parsonage on Saturday, May 18 from 8 AM to 4 PM with items to be dropped off there on Thursday & Friday, May 16 & 17 between 10 AM & 5 PM. The UMW Friendship Luncheon is Wednesday, May 22 at 12 Noon at the GEL. There's a sign-up sheet at the church to get a count of participants by May 19.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **CPR/AED training:** Sheri Rue reported that Tiffany Zemke held training on Sunday, April 28 as planned and it went well. There were 20 people attending the potluck and 12 stayed for the training. It was determined that there needs to be a regular check of the AED battery so Ad Council members will take turns doing a quick check after each Ad Council meeting.
2. **Camera Project:** Pastor Craig reported that the camera has been installed in the sanctuary thanks to Scott Meland and Bryan Rusco. Pastor Craig & Scott have been working on the logistics of broadcasting our service with the new camera system and are close to figuring out the details. Anna Urbas offered to help work out the YouTube issue that has not yet been resolved. There have also been some issues with the joy-stick; we may need to get a laptop instead of just a monitor. Bryan Rusco moved that we allocate up to \$400 additional funds (making \$600 available) to purchase a laptop, if needed. Second by Margie Olson. Motion passed.

3. **Ely All-Class Reunion church:** We'll need to decide what we'll do for this at our next Ad Council meeting in June since we may not have a pastor by then (June 30). It was mentioned that we could still do the previously suggested ice cream social idea even without a pastor.
4. **Building Use and Church Policies and Church Handbook:** Sheri Rue plans to have the first drafts of these by our June meeting.
5. **Benevolence Fund:** Anna Urbas expressed her thoughts about the Benevolence Fund that she'd spent a lot of time thinking about. She feels we need more time and thought on it, that we should wait for the new pastor and she would like to then explore ideas for a Benevolence Ministry with him/her and go from there. She recommended the Ad Hoc committee be disbanded until that can happen. It was declared disbanded since there was a recommendation from the committee and its assigned task was therefore complete. Jay Tomlinson then submitted a document outlining the history of the Benevolence Fund from the minutes and documenting a multi-part motion to "(1) Leave the Benevolence Fund Ministry Initiative with Connections; (2) Wait until our new minister is acclimated to our church before revisiting the Benevolence Ministry Initiative; (3) Until a time with the Ad Council approves a Benevolence Ministry, the Ad Council decides on all benevolence gift distributions from the Benevolence Fund line item; (4) Any future income specifically designated as Benevolence giving continues to be added to our designated Benevolence Fund line item held within the general account". Second by Jeanne Tomlinson. Motion did not pass. Bryan Rusco then moved to "Table the Benevolence Ministry until the new pastor is in place or the September Ad Council with Anna Urbas to then meet with the new minister and/or another person appointed by the Ad Council. After implementation, an annual audit will need to be done. The responsibility for the Benevolence Fund Ministry will be removed from the Connections committee." Second of the motion by Jay Tomlinson. Motion passed.
6. **Church Visions and Values:** Tabled until June.
7. **Church Goals for 2024:** Tabled until June.

NEW BUSINESS –

1. **Church Camp sponsorships:** Anna Urbas brought up the idea of helping out the kids from our church who are planning to attend a Young Life summer camp. The cost of the camp is \$750. Bryan Rusco moved that we support all church members who attend church camp (including adult leaders) with a \$300 contribution per person and that the first \$690.55 in financial support will come from the designated funds for youth education/activities. Second by Pam Turnbull. Motion passed. It was mentioned that the UMW will probably vote to add more to that support.

Items of Information

1. **Next Ad Council meeting:** Wednesday, June 19, 2024 at 6:00 PM. Jay Tomlinson volunteered to do the Opening devotion.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM with a group recitation of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary