

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at Ely United Methodist Church

Growing in faith and sharing Christ's love with others.

Call To Order: Chair Sheri Rue called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Attendees (10): Cathy Aldrich, Linda Hane, Marge Forsberg, Dan Johnson, Mark & Margie Olson, Sheri Rue, Patty & Bryan Rusco, Jay Tomlinson.

Opening: Sheri Rue shared a prayer from *A Diary of Private Prayer* by John Baillie.

Minutes: The July 17, 2024 minutes had been distributed previously to the Ad Council members. Corrections were made. Margie Olson moved that we approve the minutes as corrected; second by Jay Tomlinson. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Mark Olson presented copies of the July & August 2024 Treasurer's reports. Account balances at the end of August were \$59,710.91 in the General Fund, \$20,638.77 in the Building Fund and \$19,347.56 in the Memorial Fund. Motion to accept both the July & August reports by Linda Hane; second by Marg Forsberg. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustees:

- Bryan Rusco reported that the Trustees next meeting will be in October prior to the Ad Council meeting. There was no report presented at this meeting.

Pastor-Parish Relations:

- Cathy Aldrich reported that at their August committee meeting the members approved the document *Applying the Rule of Christ Covenant of Communication* and that she would be presenting that to the congregation as the message for the September 29th Sunday church service. Copies of the document were passed out to the Ad Council members present.
- Cathy also reported that the committee is meeting on Wednesday, September 25th at 6:00 pm at the church and that our District Superintendent, Laurie Kantonen, will attend. Cathy invited all the committee chairs to attend the meeting as well.
- Cathy reported that the Sunday service pulpit speakers for October have been filled except for the 3rd Sunday, however, she has a prospect lined up but not yet confirmed.
- Cathy also confirmed that there is no Minister/Pastor assignment on the horizon.

Worship:

- Linda Hane reported that the committee met on September 16th and will meet again on October 21st with the time TBA. The committee is looking at the Christmas service needs. They are considering using the 9 lessons in carols and finding someone to speak hasn't been ruled out at this point.
- Linda confirmed that most of the worship leaders, speakers and liturgists for the October Sunday worship services have been filled and expected the rest to be filled soon.
- Communion elements will be blessed on Saturday morning by Pastor Barb Hegfors before the Sunday worship service and distributed by our worship leadership. Permission to pre-bless the elements has been given by our DS, Laurie Kantonen and our Conference Bishop, Linette Plembach.

Connections:

- Jay Tomlinson reported that the committee met on September 10th and the focus of the meeting was the Round-Robin Group Dinner Initiative. Kathy Nelson agreed to lead that initiative. Jay reported that 16 sign-up cards were submitted with 24 participants, 10 couples and 4 singles, no families. Four groups were established with 6 people in each group. Jay commented on the committee's disappointment that many of the stalwart couples of the church, those who are most involved in the church duties, did not sign up to participate. Jay pointed out that they are the ones who could share the most about the church history and where additional help could be used, although that isn't the designed purpose of the initiative. Kathy will contact each Group initial host and provide them with the necessary details to begin and ask that each group provide a report at the end as to how things went for future reference. The committee plans to repeat this initiative again sometime between January and May of 2025. Linda suggested that the future sign-ups might be extended to city-wide participation, even to college students, as a great outreach initiative. That thought is under further consideration. Sheri Rue asked that someone from each group present their report to the congregation at one of the Sunday services to encourage future sign-ups.
- The committee also suggested that we seek adjunct members whose jobs would be to oversee specific projects. These members would not have to attend the committee meetings, but would report to the committee chair. This thought will be further considered.
- The next meeting is to be held on October 1st 2024 at 5:30 pm.

Memorial:

- Marge Forsberg reported the committee met on August 20th and decided Memorial Sunday would be on All Saints Day, November 3rd, 2024. The committee will provide coffee and cake following the service. The committee asked if Sharon and Lucy Luthens would read the names as they did last year. They are considering it, but haven't confirmed as yet.
- The committee also approved funds to pay for new music for the choir along with a new filing cabinet. Mark Olson pointed out there is a line item on the treasurer's report with \$103.14 designated for new music for the choir. Bryan Rusco made a motion that the \$103.14 designated funds on the treasurer's report be used first with the balance required to come from the memorial fund. Margie Olson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

UMW:

- Margie Olson reported that the UMW will host a Coffee & Dessert Social for the public on November 9th from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and cardamom bread will be on sale. The cardamom bread will be made the day before on November 8th. Volunteer helpers to make the bread and provide the desserts are welcomed. The desserts need to be brought to the church between 10:00 am and 11:00 am on that Saturday morning so they can be plated. Attendees will have the opportunity to make a donation for the coffee and desserts and 50% of the proceeds will go to the Northwoods Partners. Promotional suggestions included *Facebook*, *The Shopper*, the Ely, Tower and Babbit *What's Up*, and posters which should be placed two weeks before the event. Chris Urbas will be asked to make the posters.
- Margie reported we have a new cleaning lady, Erica Bagge, at \$35.00 per hour and that she has been doing an excellent job.
- The UMW will give \$100 reimbursement to each of our youth who attended the Young Life Camps upon presentation of their payment receipts.

- The upstairs of the parsonage has now been cleaned and is ready for use. Margie Olson, Susan Laine, Pam Turnbull, Jeanne Tomlinson and Marge Forsberg were the cleaners and Linda Hane provided their lunch. The trustees have plans to replace the wood burning fireplaces with propane fireplaces and possibly redoing the basement bathroom. The basement will be cleaned following those projects.
- The UMW will host the refreshments following the Sunday worship services of the first Sunday of each month unless otherwise spoken for.

OLD BUSINESS

Three month check in – How are we doing:

A lengthy discussion followed and included some of the following paraphrased comments:

- We are all very busy and tired.
- We are finding out who we are, meaning the church and it's congregation.
- Without the leadership of a minister, a lot more work falls on the Ad Council chair, PPRC chair and the Worship chair. Two of these positions are filled with volunteers who have fulltime jobs.
- The point was made that communication between committees is even more important now and that perhaps cross attendance might help.
- We understood that we may be in for a long hall without an assigned Minister.
- The nominating committee chair is the Minister or Pastor of the church, and this now falls on the Ad Council Chair. A meeting should be scheduled in November or before to begin the nominating process.
- The end of year reports and Church Conference leadership will fall on the Ad Council chair.
- On the bright side, we have filled the pulpit with speakers and Ministers on Sunday's so far and listening to a variety of speakers has been a benefit.
- We need to focus more on our kids now than we have been doing.
- The question was asked if we could do our own search for a minister/pastor. There may be seminary/divinity students willing to step in on a weekly basis filling in as acting ministers. Cathy Aldrich will ask our DS Laurie Kantonen these questions at her up-coming meeting.

Hymn/Facebook/YouTube update:

- Curt Laine is working on a replacement music system for our hymns and a permanent YouTube licensing for our church. Details to follow at our next meeting.

Confirmation:

Sheri reported that she and Keith will set a meeting to speak with the parents of the prospective confirmands to enlist their assistance with the confirmation classes when the process begins.

Workshop with Marcia Alexander of the Epworth UMC, Minneapolis:

- The previously scheduled workshop with Marcia had been cancel due to family emergency commitments, but it was felt that we still could benefit from what Marcia has to offer. Her church has been without an assigned minister for 3 years. It was suggested we hire her to provide insight, guidance and routines for what has worked for the Epworth UMC in Minneapolis. Discussion centered around, 'we need all the help we could get,' and that there may be things the Epworth UMC is doing that we could adopt and/or incorporate.

- Bryan Rusco made a motion to allocate up to \$1,000 from the general fund to hire Marcia Alexander as a consultant paying her fees, travel expenses and per diems. Motion was seconded by Jay Tomlinson. Motion passed.

Parsonage internet/phone service:

- Mark reported that the phone service from Frontier at the parsonage has been ended and what remains is the Midco equipment that will provide for internet service once we need it at the parsonage. Our phone/internet invoice at the parsonage has now been reduced from around \$86/month to around \$13/month.

NEW BUSINESS

Admin position:

- Sheri Rue suggested that we may need to look into hiring an administrative assistant for between 9 and 12 hours a week to handle some of the routine work that needs to be done on a regular basis. She asked each of the committee chairs to provide a list by the next Ad Council meeting of jobs that could be handled by an administrative assistant.

Sunday School kick-off:

Bryan Rusco said he could speak with Chris Urbas about doing a Sunday morning Sunday School kick-off where he volunteered to provide breakfast pizzas.

Items of Information

- **Next Ad Council meeting:** Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 6:00 PM. Linda Hane volunteered to do the Opening devotion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM with a group recitation of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Tomlinson – substitute secretary