

## **CHURCH COUNCIL – MINUTES**

**Wednesday, March 19, 2025 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 6:06 PM.

**Attendees (10):** Pastor Kay Carter, Linda Hane, Dan Johnson, Steve Nelson, Mark & Margie Olson, Sheri Rue, Bryan Rusco, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson.

**Opening:** Sheri Rue shared her recent experience in Alaska attending her brother-in-law, Dave's funeral with his extended Inuit family and read Psalm 34 as an opening prayer.

**Minutes:** The February 19, 2025 Council minutes had been distributed previously. Jay Tomlinson moved that we approve the minutes as distributed; second by Mark Olson. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mark Olson presented the February 2025 Treasurer's report. The report included a payment for our bank deposit box which raised a question as to who had access to it and also what was in it. Mark will research that and get back to us. Jay mentioned that the \$10 reduction in the Benevolence Fund was from an incorrect bank charge which he is addressing with the bank. Motion to accept the report by Jay Tomlinson; second by Jeanne Tomlinson. Motion passed. Account balances are \$56,041.74 in the General Fund, \$6,882.20 in the Building Fund, \$16,827.95 in the Memorial Fund and \$6,956.78 in the Benevolence Fund.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **Trustees:** Bryan Rusco reported that they will be meeting on Wednesday, March 26 instead of the originally scheduled April meeting because he and Patty will be out of town then. The next big project is the front porch replacement with decking-type material along with a rework of the handicap ramp. He is waiting on the arrival of the new sound system before working on the rewiring that will be needed.
2. **Pastor-Parish Relations:** Steve Nelson reported that he and Pastor Kay communicate at least weekly and that he has recently completed a training class. All is going well. He mentioned that Kay's husband, Ian, would be interested in having the electronic keyboard currently stored in the library/choir room. We agreed it should be moved to the parsonage.
3. **Worship:** Dan Johnson reported that the committee will meet on April 11. Worship services have been going well. The Ash Wednesday service was well attended and the confirmands did a wonderful job. Palm leaves and Easter lilies have been ordered. He talked briefly about the scramble the previous Sunday when Pastor Kay was sick and unable to deliver the sermon. He suggested we develop a list of possible speaker substitutes who might be called upon when Pastor Kay is out of town or incapacitated. Sheri, Steve, Kay and Dan will work on developing this list.
4. **Connections:** Jay Tomlinson reported that Kathy Nelson had delivered the food contributions to the local college food shelf. At their March 6 meeting they organized the next set of groups for the Small Group Gatherings initiative. We have 30 people who signed up in addition to Pastor Kay and her husband and set up 5 groups with 5 new "hosts" who will each contact their assigned group members to set up the first meeting.
5. **Memorial:** Margie Olson reported that the next committee meeting will be on May 13.

6. **UMW:** Margie Olson reported that UMW will be doing another Carefree Living Coffee on Thursday, April 3 at 1:30 PM; our next pasties will be April 15 and their annual May Friendship Luncheon will be on Wednesday, May 21. She also mentioned they are using the *Dynamite Prayer* book we all received last year for their devotional time.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Audio System:** Curt Laine is out of town so this will be discussed next month.
2. **Cloud storage:** Pastor Kay has determined that our documents are being stored on the Cloud but we need to find out how to access them with a Google account.
3. **Website/Tithe.ly:** We discussed adding ways for people to donate electronically. We also discussed possibly adding information to the weekly bulletin about giving totals along with budget vs actuals information so that people are kept informed about church finances. It was recommended that the Finance Committee handle this.
4. **Membership Roster updates:** Pastor Kay reported that the *Book of Discipline* stipulates we should have an appointed Membership Secretary and that we need to bring our membership roster up to date in order to get a baseline record of active members and those who are inactive and should probably be removed from the roster. Pam Turnbull had done some work on this for our 2024 Charge Conference and it was recommended she be asked to continue that work. Margie Olson offered to work with her. Pastor Kay said she is also planning to hold a “Methodist 101” class some time this year for any church participants who may be interested in joining or may just want a refresher.
5. **Church Secretary:** Sheri Rue stated that this will be removed from the agenda as a Tabled item although she’d still like a list of tasks from Committee chairs that would be good to have a Secretary do.
6. **Church Handbook 2025** – Tabled
7. **Church Vision and Values** – Tabled
8. **Church Goals for 2025** - Tabled

### **NEW BUSINESS** –

1. **Administrative Council/Church Council renaming:** Sheri Rue & Pastor Kay reported that the *1998 Book of Discipline* stipulates that what had previously been two groups in the church – “Council of Ministries” and “Administrative Council” – should be combined and work together as the “Church Council” so we’ll be renaming our “Administrative Council” to “Church Council” to be in line with the *Book of Discipline*.
2. **Church Council Leadership Retreat:** Pastor Kay would like to hold a leadership retreat for all members of the Church Council as both a training and visioning time. We tentatively set a date and time of Saturday, October 25 from 10 AM to 3 PM.
3. **Charge Conference reports:** Pastor Kay, Sheri Rue, Bryan Rusco, and Mark & Margie Olson had received an email from Erin Lorenz, our District Administrative Assistant, indicating we had not yet turned in required year-end-2024 reports: Trustee Report, Missions Report and a copy of the 2025 budget. Kay and Sheri will research what is required and will take care of this.

**Correspondence** - None

**Items of Information**

1. **Next Church Council meeting:** Wednesday, April 16 at 6:00 PM. Linda Hane offered to do the Opening devotion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM with a group recitation of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Tomlinson, Church Council Secretary