

Meeting held in-person at Two Churches, with Jill Barry attending via Zoom – minutes taken by Jill Barry

Members Present: Dan Weller, Joel Flint, Laura Daniels, Angela Keane, John Standley, Rev. Mike Wernick

Non-voting Present: Jill Barry (recorder), Deacon Kim Hoop

Not present: Laura Kremer (sick)

Meeting called to order 7:10 PM, opened with prayer by Rev. Mike

Agenda approved as presented (Dan moved/Laura D. seconded)

Clergy Report for May approved (John moved/Laura D. seconded)

Approval of May Minutes (Dan moved/John seconded)

Liaison Reports – all reports accepted (Laura D. moved/Dan seconded):

- Property (report from Joel)
  - Jon Getz has wood chipper that can be used, seeking a day to get together to finish path in woods.
  - Laurie Gardner added to list of people volunteering to mow during the summer.
  - John spoke with Scott McDonald plumbing regarding wet basement – ditch is the major issue with water leaking in, they are looking at the sump pump control box as well as possible new sump pump; also seeking possible foundation solutions re: leak in wall.
  - Flooring update: due to supply delays/shortages, alternative products have been suggested otherwise will need to reschedule. Decision made would prefer to wait for product we originally chose – John to contact DeHaan and see what new schedule is likely to be.
  - Painting – John to schedule, ask for volunteers to help.
- Community Ministry (written report from Kim)
  - No discussion needed
- Christian Education – no report
- Hospitality - (verbal report from Angela)
  - Polly found an old list of previous events, from which they are getting some ideas
  - may schedule another “cook-off” event of some kind
- Worship & Music (written report from Rev. Mike)
  - No discussion needed
- Correspondence (verbal report from John) – couple of thank you notes from ELCA Disaster Relief for donations to help with Ukraine crisis (which came from congregation and separately from Community Ministry funds); thank you from ACCESS of West Michigan for donation

Treasurer’s Report – (written report from John) accepted along with other liaison reports above;

- John added to property issues discussed above that the old dumpster is now gone and we now have 1 trash bin and 2 recycle bins from Arrow Waste.

Old Business:

- DeHaan Flooring Dates – will be changing somewhat – see property report above
- Constitution/By-Laws Update
  - June 14<sup>th</sup> Mike checked with Rev. Dennis Smith at Synod, who was not finding any information from the churchwide office regarding any existing Union congregations that we might contact for assistance in updating/creating acceptable documents; reiterated previous suggestion that Ascension dissolve. (Leadership team reaction: stunned, once again.)
  - General feeling is that Ascension members are not ready to simply leave ELCA, simply wish to move to the next steps together with Holy Cross in a way that is acceptable to the ELCA.
  - Suggested instead of Mike continuing to contact Synod office that Dan as leadership chair contact them, as constitutionally Lutheran congregations are lead by the council/leadership team. This might be seen by the Synod office as more appropriate, and perhaps will receive a different (better?) response.
  - Dan to contact Dennis Smith to determine if Synod will support our efforts to update our documents and make them acceptable to ELCA churchwide, or if not, why? Why is the Synod office, first through the bishop and now through Rev. Smith, continuing to suggest that Ascension close? Also if Synod office will not support our efforts, then will contact ELCA churchwide office (John stated Polly would be willing to assist with this if need be.)
  - We need to also look at searching for and contacting other Lutheran/Episcopal congregations ourselves to see how they have handled constitution/by-law issues.

New Business:

- Rich & Judy Walker, former Ascension members, requested a letter of transfer to their new congregation in Texas. Letter signed by Mike and sent.

Other Issues of Concerns:

- John discussed clergy pensions – no decisions made/needed
- John discussed the history of the apportionment split (Episcopal/Lutheran), and general discussion of what membership is – no decisions made/needed at this time
- Jill requested adjournment

Next meeting to be determined – noted that July's meeting is often canceled and so we may not meet until August.

Meeting adjourned 8:57 PM with The Lord's Prayer.