

Meeting minutes taken by Jill Barry

Members Present: Kevin Barry, Joel Flint, Shelley McKean, Angela Keane, Laura Daniels, John Standley, Rev. Mike Wernick

Non-voting Present: Jill Barry (recorder); Polly Standley, Community Ministry Liaison

Meeting called to order 7:03 PM, opened with prayer by Rev. Mike

Agenda approved (Joel moved/Laura seconded)

Clergy Report for November approved (Laura moved/John seconded)

- No discussion needed.

Approval of November minutes with corrections (along with liaison reports)

Liaison Reports – all reports accepted (Joel moved/Angela seconded):

- Property (verbal report from Joel)
 - Changed batteries in clocks; changed furnace filters
 - Purchased new vacuum as old one was not working consistently
 - Discussed LGROW grant of \$1500 for rainscaping/garden project. Was decided that we will still add in the previously approved \$500 from budget to give us a total of \$2000 to work with. Will likely ask that they come up with a plan for both garden and trees.
- Community Ministry (verbal report from Polly)
 - Noisy offering discussed – suggestion had been made that recipient does not need to remain the same (ACCESS). Was determined by consensus that Community Ministry has permission to change recipient or keep it the same if they wish. Community Ministry will investigate further regarding ACCESS or other possible recipients.
 - Local Muslim family in need (recent immigrants) was assisted with celebrating the typical American secular Christmas; gifts and a small tree were purchased or donated, as well as food assistance.
 - CM will end the year with a zero balance of their budget, as requested.
- Hospitality – (verbal report from Shelley & Polly)
 - Christmas Eve service will be at Holy Trinity, and they do not have a tradition of having cookies following the service. Polly will be doing coffee hour after the Advent 7 service that morning, and will make it “extra special”.
 - Polly has ideas for doing some type of activity this year such as an escape room, or perhaps a murder mystery night, scheduled for some time this spring.
- Worship & Music (written report from Rev. Mike)
 - Those assisting up front during communion are doing so as acolytes, which does not require licensing by the Episcopal Church.
- Correspondence (verbal report from John)
 - Thank You from Green Apple Pantry for the money from Spaghetti Dinner.

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

- We’re at 92% of the year, and 95% of budgeted income/expenses. Doing good.
- Mike & Joel asked to leave room for discussion of Mike’s pay package.
 - Discussed cost of living increase. There is a need to talk to Holy Trinity to see what their capabilities are. Was mentioned that even if HT cannot increase “their half”, we could

potentially still increase what we pay Mike. Diocese recommended at least a cost of living increase. Question of whether a year-end bonus or a pay increase would be more beneficial tax-wise to Mike, determined that leadership should simply ask which he'd prefer. Answer was pay increase would be better.

- Details to be worked into proposed budget for January meeting.
- Jill & Kevin asked to leave room for discussion of Jill's pay package. (notes below taken by Laura)
 - Jill to be given a \$1 per hour raise, and also a \$1000 year-end bonus. (John moved/Angela 2nd – approved.)
- Raiseright (scrip) funds currently going into Holy Cross general fund. John proposed these go into Diaper Depot account to support that ministry. No decision made.

Old Business:

- Constitution & By-Laws Update
 - Following up on a Nov. 30th Zoom meeting between Rev. Mike, Diocesan Canon the Rev. Sunil Chandy, and Synod Constitutionalist Pr. Dennis Smith, another Zoom meeting was held this week including also Diocesan Assisting Bp. Skip Adams, Diocesan Chancellor Bill Fleener Jr., and Synod lawyer Lynn Chrysler. It was agreed that Synod Bp. Satterlee would not choose to be a part of the discussion at this point, but that he was aware of it.
 - Synod lawyer Lynn essentially said "What you're doing is working and we don't want to mess with that."
 - Three options for moving forward in order to deal with our "irregular" constitution and bylaws that were approved by the congregation in January 2022 but NOT accepted by the ELCA:
 - Ascension Lutheran dissolve, members continue to be a part of Holy Cross' worshipping community but are no longer a part of the ELCA and lose voice and vote at Synod Assembly.
 - Ascension & Holy Cross dissolve as legal entities in the State of Michigan in order to create a Union congregation that would be affiliated with both the Episcopal Church and the ELCA.
 - Continue to "fly under the radar" with our "irregular" constitution and hope that we do not run in to any legal issues regarding property or liability.
 - Meeting ended with Bill Fleener Jr. agreeing to contact Lynn to figure out how to move forward.
- Annual Meeting date set for Sunday, January 28.
 - Announcement requirements state the 2 prior consecutive Sundays plus 10 days prior to the meeting, either by mail or electronic means.
 - Potluck luncheon to follow the meeting.
- Nomination Committee/Leadership Rotation
 - Joel and Angela rotating off
 - Mary Trasky and Cal Meuzelaar volunteered to come on to leadership.
 - Joel had also approached Alex Steward, who said he would be agreeable to be on leadership.
- Parking Lot/Drive Lighting
 - John has not done any investigation regarding increasing lighting.

New Business:

- 2024 Housing Resolution for Rev. Michael Wernick
 - Signed by Laura

- Annual Meeting Roles
 - Kevin and Mike to work together on agenda
- Children's Bulletins
 - Jill would like to purchase downloadable Children's bulletins that we would then print as needed for each Sunday. Discussed that though we do not always have children at our worship services, we should be prepared for them with "something".
 - Augsburg/Fortress (ELCA publisher) has a lectionary-based version that would amount to \$80 for the year. Approved purchase.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 7 PM.

Closed with Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned 9:48 PM.