

Meeting minutes taken by Jill Barry

Members Present: Kevin Barry, Joel Flint, Angela Keane (arrived late due to work), Laura Daniels, John Standley, Rev. Mike Wernick

Member Absent: Shelley McKean (had to work)

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

Meeting called to order 7:00 PM, opened with prayer by Rev. Mike

Agenda approved (Kevin moved/Laura seconded)

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

- No discussion needed.

Approval of December 2023 minutes with corrections (Joel moved/Laura seconded)

Liaison Reports – all reports accepted including treasurer’s report (John moved/Laura seconded):

- Property (written report from Joel)
 - -Re: refugee garden – Joel reached out to Purnima re: possibly trying to act as go between/interpreter with Binod. She is now living in Pennsylvania, and believes people may be underutilizing garden due to deer/rabbits/groundhogs etc. Prefers not to talk to Binod due to culture of male-dominant hierarchy; offered to speak w/someone who is actively gardening. Current garden/ers self-sufficient, not using Bethany services; Joel to reach out to Bethany about new potential gardeners.
 - Organized binder for new Vice Chair coming on.
- Community Ministry (verbal report from Polly)
 - CM in a good place organizationally following Deacon Kim’s leaving.
 - Next meeting is March 3rd in the library.
- Hospitality – (verbal report from Shelley & Polly)
 - Looking for more people to join in hosting coffee hour.
 - Planning a Mardi Gras fellowship event for Feb. 13 (Shrove Tuesday)
 - Planning a Murder Mystery event for April 19. Asked what alcohol policy was. Mike to double-check diocesan requirements.
 - Will plan a simple meal to go with Wednesday night Lenten Bible Study.
 - Mar. 22 – Memorial Service for Ann Alessandrini – family has requested a luncheon, Shelley is aware of this and will be needing assistance in organizing this.
- Worship & Music (written report from Rev. Mike)
 - Ash Wednesday 7 PM Feb. 14 at Holy Trinity.
- Correspondence (verbal report from John)
 - Thank yous from ACCESS, ELCA Good Gifts, and ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response.

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

- Finished in the black for the 4th year in a row.
- Included recommended 2024 Budget, with last minute change to add the \$500 that leadership approved to put toward the rain garden project.
- Recommended budget voted on and approved to be forwarded to congregation. (John moved/Laura seconded.)

Old Business:

- Constitution & By-Laws Update
 - Mike spoke with Bishop Skip re: concern that ELCA folks are “attached to the model constitution”, which is causing some of our road blocks.
 - Meeting again on Zoom at the end of the month (January) with Polly and Kevin joining in.
 - No one seems to be in any hurry about this, but it is Mike’s goal to get this resolved prior to his anticipated retirement in a year and a half.
- Parking Lot/Drive Lighting
 - John has not done any investigation regarding increasing lighting.
- Nomination Committee/Leadership Rotation – Update
 - Mary Trasky and Cal Meuzelaar both came forward and volunteered. Alex Steward agreed to go on leadership after John approached him, not knowing we already had two volunteers. Joel spoke with Alex again, and Alex readily agreed to hold off for another year so we would not have to draw lots.

New Business:

- Annual Meeting
 - Sunday, Jan. 28 after a 10 AM worship service.
 - We will have a post-meeting Leadership team meeting (briefly) to choose officers and set future monthly meeting schedule.
 - Church Use Policy – Other Churches
 - MOTION: Mike moved that we will not at this time entertain any requests from other church groups to use our facilities on a regular basis, particularly for worship services. Discussed that there are several factors that would make it difficult to coordinate such a sharing of facilities, but it also was mentioned that we do not currently need such income as this might generate. John seconded the motion. All approved.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 7 PM (pending no changes following Jan. 28 mini-meeting.)

Closed with Lord’s Prayer.

Meeting adjourned 8:37 PM.