

## MT. ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

February 9, 2016

**COUNCIL MEMBERS/STAFF PRESENT:** President Carl Meincke, Vice President Aaron Adams, Pastor Erin Nelson, Shelley Hallen, Jodi Becker, Dennis O'Connell, Jason Gigure, Sonja Johnson, Jim Johnson, Scott Jahns, Cameron Jahns and Einar Hanson.

**EXCUSED:** Olive Olson, Linda Yde and Laura Gerdts.

Guests at the beginning of the meeting: Robin Arneson, Joan Christopher, Katie Jones and Harley Saathoff.

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Carl Meincke called the meeting to order at 7:00pm at Mt. Zion and asked Pastor Erin to lead a prayer. Pastor lit a candle to remind us that God is present in this place. She then read John 16. A prayer was said. President Carl then asked for an approval of the Agenda. with the following adjustment to move Board of Property to after the appointments of Congregational Secretary, Financial Secretary and Treasurer.

Jim Johnson/Aaron Adams  
Moved/Second/Carried.

### **Correct door locking procedure for the main doors**

Harley asked everyone to follow him to a main door where he told and gave a demonstration on how to hold the bar in when locking it in place and also when closing so it will not snap back.

### **Appointments:**

Council Secretary-Katie Jones

Financial Secretary-Joan Christopher

Treasurer-Robin Arneson

Approve the 3 appointments for a **one-year** term.

Dennis O'Connell/Einar Hanson  
M/S/C

### **BOARD FOR PROPERTY:** Dennis O'Connell and Jason Gigure.

Dennis reported he had met with Beth Gaede's husband who deals with chairs, but his were too expensive at over \$100 each. He suggested another company, Bertolini-Hybrid which only deals in church chairs. They have a 5-year warranty. Dennis thought a chair for \$36.99 which is also cloth would be the one to go with. He passed around a picture. He was also going to ask if for a cheaper rate by ordering 30 at this time.

Robin stated she thought there was still money in the Capital Campaign for Property.

Jim will ask Jackie Anderson.

Dennis also stated the Bug Guy was recently here and everything is good.

The defibrillator arrived and Property was wondering where to hang it up in the church?

Pastor brought up across from Anna's office and this was discussed.

Scott Jahns brought up to place it above the water fountain. Most people when they do not feel well, head to the restroom. This would also be located in a space that would not make a narrow hallway even narrower as Joan Christopher pointed out. This seems to be a good location to place it above the water fountain.

Dennis also brought up about televisions that would display a power point presentation of events in the church. Was looking at the Commons area and possibly one in the Fellowship area.

### **Church Council Meetings Tutorial:**

This 2-page handout titled Church Council Meetings Tutorial which explained council meetings in detail. President Carl called attention to a paragraph on the front page which reads in part: Board chairpersons should submit a copy of their board

meeting minutes to each member of Church Council by the Friday prior to the scheduled Council meeting. Electronic copies are preferred. President Carl asked for Council members to read the rest of the tutorial at their leisure before the next meeting.

#### **STAFF REPORTS:**

##### **COUNCIL SECRETARY:** Katie Jones.

Katie emailed the meeting minutes of January 12, 2016 to nominated and past Council members.

Katie also stated that normally, a reminder email will be sent on the Sunday of the week of the Council meeting instead of the day of the meeting as happened today.

##### **FINANCIAL SECRETARY:** Joan Christopher

Written report.

President Carl asked Joan to go through the report in detail.

Joan had marked the numbers that were pertinent and explained the line items.

Highlights: Under budget for the month \$2,562.82.

69% of the 3-year goal of Time to Prosper of \$384,495 has been given.

Mission Investment Fund Loan Balance is \$715,806.08 as of 2-1-2016

Einar asked what is the interest percentage.

Joan could not find it, but Robin said it is fixed.

##### **TREASURER:** Robin Arneson

Written report.

President Carl asked Robin to go through the report in detail.

President Carl asked for an explanation of what Portico is. Robin stated it is health insurance and Pension fund for Pastor.

Over budget for the month \$131.63

Checkbook balance \$9,436.68.

Robin also stated the numbers in the Annual Report were correct.

The Non-Budgeted Items are pass through items to cover an expense such as the Youth Grants, paying for the defibrillator, paying Luther Point Bible Camp Mt. Zion's membership. It is all money that is not part of the actual budget, but is money being held in some account such as Memorial Fund.

President Carl asked Robin to have a paragraph in the next few bulletins to explain the numbers were correct in the Annual report and why. It was also stated that large sums are taken from Associated Bank to put in Mission Investment Fund which pays better interest. Robin explained MIF holds the mortgage and the Youth Grant Fund. Pastor stated they only loan to churches. Jim stated the Finance Board had sought out several places to check interest rates before deciding on MIF.

##### **PASTOR'S REPORT:** Pastor submitted a written report.

Highlights:

Pastor attended 24 meetings in January along with 4 other meetings.

3 vacation days used out of 23

0 Sick Days out of 13

0 Sundays used out of 4

Membership Adjustments and Pastoral Acts:

Baptism 1

Transfers In: 0

Transfers Out: 1 Youth

Adults 278 Youth 76

Total Baptized Membership 354

Associate Members 11

Pastor Erin added to her written report by saying from the Healthy Start, she will employ 6 teams of Hospitality Spies that she has asked to come here between now and Memorial Day. We are not very "welcoming" and we need to work on that. The

Spies will see if anyone says Hi, asks them to sign the guest book, sit by them, join in fellowship after or anything else. Now that we know, she hopes everyone will be more aware of newcomers. Pastor also told about her Continuing Education Account. She is required to attend 3 meetings of which the first one is this weekend in Eau Claire. She would like to attend the Mini MBA course which is this June at Luther Seminary. Business is also what she recognizes as a weak point in her skills. Pastor talked with Pastor Brian and he had taken this and highly recommends it as it was very beneficial for him and thinks it will be for her also. Pastor brought up the Mini MBA is \$1,200. When it is time for the required fall meetings, if there is not enough left in her CE account, her and Mitch will personally pay for any shortfall and she asked if this was okay. It was decided there did not need to be a motion for this to happen.

**ANNA'S UPDATES:** Written report.

President Carl brought attention to the part where Anna needs a short biography from some of the council members who are listed on her report.

Pastor asked for the same people to stay after the meeting for a photo.

Pastor also said she feels bad that Anna worships at another church as she is bombarded with questions about the church before or after services.

Please save questions for Tuesday through Friday or place a note in her mailbox at church.

President Carl sent around the March Calendar for updates.

Also, the deadline for March Newsletter is February 15 by noon.

Approve Staff Reports  
Shelley Hallen/Sonja Johnson  
M/S/C

**BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND ACTIVITY:**

Shelley Hallen and Jodi Becker

Shelly stated they had a committee meeting January 24 and she handed out the minutes.

Highlights:

Sunday School Kids will sing in church February 21;

Christmas Program date will be before or after the Choral Service.

Craft Sunday instead the day of Choral Service.

Ask more parents to volunteer.

Have a Parent and Me class for younger children.

Holly O'Connell is interested in working with Angie to share duties.

Scholarships went to Jessie and Kelsie Hines and Alex and Michaela Arneson.

Change for Change is now going to VBS.

Angie Adams and Amanda Stojan will follow up with Kathy Hunter for anything they need to know about the Church Library.

Amanda will bring Kids' Club Kids to the Christian book store to choose some books for the library.

Jodi Becker will be a volunteer for Kids' Club.

Background checks will be every 2 years which is the industry standard.

Youth: Middle School NETworks moves to Mt. Zion for a few months.

HS NETworks has a Bible Study for 5 weeks at 3pm Thursdays at Hudson Bagel.

Breakout will travel again to New Orleans.

Confirmation 9th graders will tie blankets for the Seniors.

Confirmation of 9th graders will be April 24

VBS July 11-15 Possibly joint with NETworks churches with Mt. Zion hosting. Churches share cost with Mt. Zion paying half as most will be from Mt. Zion.

Want to make sure a singing date at CCH is set during VBS.

Ask Anna to set up an online sign up for volunteers.  
Luther Point Bible Camp Have Temple Talks 4 Sundays by previous attendees.  
Summer Activities  
Holly will make a brochure that will list all major activities.  
Spring Garage Sale possibly May 20 and 21.

**YOUTH DEACONS:** Laura Gerds and Cameron Jahns  
No Report

**BOARD FOR FINANCE:** Jim Johnson and Scott Jahns  
Jim stated items will be discussed under new business.

**BOARD FOR OUTREACH AND SOCIAL MINISTRY:** Sonja Johnson and Olive Olson  
Sonja said they did not have a meeting.

**BOARD FOR MUSIC AND WORSHIP:** Einar Hanson and Linda Yde  
Einar stated they did not have a meeting.

**WELCA:** Joan reported Circles are meeting.

Katie mentioned a St. Croix Valley meeting coming up in April.

Approve Board and Committee reports  
Einar Hanson/Jim Johnson  
M/S/C.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

NETworks Partnership & Support - Table until March President Carl asked Robin to explain about NETworks. Group of 4 churches comprised of Mt. Zion, First Baptist, Presbyterian and Episcopal. Pastor added NETworks requested \$14,000 from us and we paid \$8,000 out of the amount that would have went to a Faith Associate as NETworks is not part of the budget. Middle School has 6-8 youth attend of which 2 are Mt. Zion youth. HS has 10-15 youth of which 2 are Mt. Zion. Pastor has been in contact with the other 3 Pastors for the last few months. Bethel is willing to allow Mt. Zion youth attend National ELCA events with them. We are committed to the end of 2016 and NETworks budget year starts in September.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

2016 Stewardship Campaign & 2016-2019 Mortgage/Building Campaign

Jim Johnson stated he talked with the person from Derrick Construction that builds and works with churches who stated churches lose ground if the change to another company.

Scott and Einar both thought all the money should not be paid in the first year if we go to the 3-year plan.

Scott asked what information do they have?

Robin replied all the background on everyone and what was given for special opportunities such as the Faith Associate funds.

Pastor said we need to make a decision in March.

An interest was shown in having a conference call before the March meeting with will be Finance, President Carl, Vice-President Aaron and Pastor Erin.

Correction of 2015 Income and Expense Statement

As Robin stated before, it was correct. She will also have a blurb in the newsletter and bulletins.

Perhaps renaming it to something else would be better and Pass-Through Account was brought up.

### Congregational Annual Report Changes

Include the Congregational Synod Report, email the Annual Report in Advance

Pastor said when Kathy Hunter brought up the numbers, Pastor knew them because she had just finished the Synod Report which is even more detailed. Katie stated that in the past, the Pastor's report has included the total numbers of the Adult Baptized, Youth and Associate members. Sometimes the number of baptisms, marriages and funerals also. Emailing was brought up as members took a copy home but forgot to bring it back on Sunday so not everyone had one. Consensus was to email them copies the day of the meeting.

Youth Grants approval and development of guidelines for membership and time line

Joan brought up that Gustafson's may have guidelines since Richard started it

Einar then announced he found guidelines in the Constitution 13.03.02

Shelley will be on top of this as it is under Christian Education.

President Carl asked for a motion to approve the 4 youth grants of \$484.50 that were presented to Kelsie Hines, Jessie Hines, Alex Arneson and Michaela Arneson.

Scott Jahns/Aaron Adams  
M/S/C

### **COMMENTS for the GOOD of OUR COMMUNITY:**

President Carl welcomed the new members to Council.

Scott Jahns asked everyone could state their name.

President Carl then asked everyone to do a short self-introduction.

Katie said thank you to everyone for attending Hudson Hot Air Affair and all the help and support of the Up, Up and Away 5k.

Jim Johnson stated he does hundreds of running events both large and small and this is the best one.

President Carl reminded Council Anna still needs a short biography from some of them and Pastor stated she still needs to take a picture before they go home.

Next meeting is Tuesday, March 8 at 7pm at Mt. Zion

Motion made to adjourn at 8:45pm  
M/S/C Cameron Jahns/Jim Johnson

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Jones

Council Secretary