

## St Philips Council Minutes March 15, 2021

Zoom: David Weisser, Sadie Reiners, Katy Lindberg, Deborah Dreher, Marjorie Peterson, Abby Schultz, Stephanie Becken, Cindy Toppin, Jay Raimann, Pastor Greg Geier

Called to order 604pm

### Treasurer Deborah Dreher

With our new web-based accounting software, Quickbooks Online, Financial Reports (Reports) were generated for January-February. Christine and Deborah presented the Reports to the Finance Team. Positive feedback was given. Discussion pursued relating to the new format and what would be most beneficial for Council to receive. General agreement was the Balance Sheet (Report A) and the Operations Budget vs. Actuals (Report C) give the clearest picture of our financial standing. In addition, they should receive the Operations Budget (Report E). Deborah will include these with her March monthly report to Council and request their feedback.

The Reports for Council:

- A. Report A: Balance Sheet
- B. Report C: Operations Budget vs. Actuals
- C. Report E: Operations Budget

Reports A & C would be distributed to Council each month. Report E would be distributed annually, after the Budget is approved at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Discussion of February 2021 Financial Reports: Budget is in good shape and SPLC is in a strong financial position. Giving is 3.09% over budget with Expenses 14.4% over budget. The overage of Expenses relates to Capital & Misc. tithe payments to Hastings United Way/Food4Kids and Matrix, in the amount of \$10,816 each.

Discussion pursued regarding the Council action to include Council Meeting Minutes on our website. Deborah had indicated the Monthly Financial Reports could also be include, but afterwards had second thoughts. She reconsidered having detailed Financial Reports on our website which accessible to the public. Team agreed the verbal summary of facts in this Report would be satisfactory, but the Report attachments would be withheld. Any member of SPLC congregation may contact the Treasurer, Business Manager, or member of the Finance Team if they have questions or would like additional information.

Cindy made a motion to Accept the financials. It was seconded by Bruce. Council vote Motion passed.

### Secretary Katy Lindberg

Deborah made a motion to accept February's minutes as written. Marjorie gave a second. Council voted Motion passed.

### Vice President Sadie Reiners

No report

## **Serving Ministries Stephanie Becken**

A Stewardship Survey as done in 2021 was reviewed with the team scoring their own feelings on the 20 questions. A copy of the survey is being supplied to every council member as an item of interest at their March meeting.

## **HR Cindy Toppin**

Julie Flaten, former City of Hastings Deputy Administrator, has joined the HR Ministry Team. Julie has taken a job consulting to cities/counties on HR and Finance. Her expertise is most welcome!

The HR Ministry Team met this month to introduce Julie to the Team and share resources with Pastor Geier.

## **Learning Ministries Abby Schultz**

Preschool has 34 spots filled for next fall which is lower than normal. They are discussing ways to get the word out. They are also working on fixing several items in the church in addition to a deep floor cleaning.

Faith formation would like to see in person Sunday school return in April. They are discussing weekly themed activities to prompt participation. They are also working on a kids newsletter and safe Easter activities. A few high schoolers have expressed interest in going to Camp Amnicon this summer.

**Cindy Toppin made a motion to approve fundraising activities for the high schoolers to attend Camp Amnicon. Stephine Becken gave a second and the motion was approved.**

Faith formation is also planning a family talent show and thinking of other ways to stay connected. Plans are being made for our Graduating class.

Adult Spiritual Group is presenting a class on grief that started in March. After Eater, Pastor will be presenting a series of discussion on "How to be an AntiRacist".

## **Worship & Music Report Marjorie Peterson**

Debrief: Ash Wednesday service with Nathan singing was well received. People appreciated choir singing The Holden Evening Prayer for Lenten services.

Most recent MDH Covid guidelines do not allow singing except for individuals located behind plexiglass. Spoken words by masked congregation are allowed.

Planning ahead for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter was done. There will be one Easter service scheduled with preregistration. Depending on numbers, a second service may be added.

## **Communication and Marketing Bruce Arndtson**

Bruce would like to expand the committee for greater outreach to new members.

Website has been updated.

### **Pastors report:**

- Lenten worship has gone well, and I have received positive feedback on both the recorded Holden Evening Prayer and the sermon series thus far.
- Our Director of Worship and Music, Ellen Diischer had successful surgery on March 8<sup>th</sup> and we are covering essential worship planning responsibilities.
- I will be taking the weekend of March 21<sup>st</sup> off to hopefully watch our granddaughter while Rosa and Joel welcome her brother into the world. (This is a change from last month's report.)
- Teaching the 56ers Sunday School has not been successful. Two out of a possible 13 students have attended at least one class thus far.
- Sarah and I taught the first 1<sup>st</sup> Communion class on Saturday and she will teach the second session. We had three families participate. We are still working out the logistics of our Maundy Thursday worship.
- Our "Opening the Bible" class for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and their parents will be on April 10<sup>th</sup> and we will plan on giving the Bibles on Sunday April 11<sup>th</sup>.
- I am serving as a mentor for Lisa Bergert as she earns her MA from Luther Seminary. This serves as an investment in the larger ELCA and should take 4-10 hours a month.
- We have had visitors the past two Sundays which was nice.

### **New Business:**

Marjorie Peterson made a motion to allow Members to use the church facilities for music lessons. This was tabled to the next meeting for research on affects of insurance and decide if this is for members only.

Katy Lindberg made a motion to approve the Constitution amendment C10.8 (Proposed)The Congregation may hold meetings, including but not limited to its annual meeting, by remote communications, including electronically and by telephone conference. Marjorie Peterson gave a second and motion passed.

Adjourned 6:56 pm

Submitted by Katy Lindberg

