

Minutes of the Congregational Meeting

January 24, 2016

Brett Scribner took notes

1. Meeting was called to order by Jessica Donahue, President. Brett Scribner, Vice President, verified the quorum (67 signatures; I will forward the sig pages under separate cover).
2. Pastor Cassie said the opening prayer.
 - a. Pastor Cassie informed the congregation of her desire to change to 80% time, and that the Parish Council had approved.
3. Prior meeting minutes
 - a. The minutes of the May 2014 meeting were reviewed and adopted (motion was seconded and passed by voice vote)
 - b. The minutes of the January 2015 meeting were reviewed and adopted (motion was seconded and passed by voice vote)
4. St. Stephen's year in review
 - a. A Powerpoint was presented on the overhead screens. Very nice job, well received!
5. Youth and Family update
 - a. Sitraka gave the update:
 - i. Youth Extravaganza in Detroit
 - ii. Youth WAPO spring retreat
 - iii. MN without Poverty
 - iv. Wednesday night programming
 - v. Recognition of the contributions of Janelle Woods, Tanisha, Darcy, Larry
 - b. Several of the youth thanked the congregation for their support of the activities
 - i. A video of the message of thanks from the kids was also shown
6. Strategic Plan / Task Force
 - a. Kathy Packer provided the update
 - b. Property and Maintenance highlights: roof replacement, new sanctuary doors, HVAC repairs, audio system, lighting in the sanctuary, sound board upgrade and move to new spot in sanctuary
 - c. Evangelism: Home meetings held
 - d. Web site improvements ongoing and planned
 - e. Faith Community nurse (Rosalie Christianson) "opening for business"
7. Treasurer's report / 2015 recap
 - a. Dave Bergeson gave the Treasurer's report
 - i. Balance sheet summary
 1. Discussed the change in assets
 2. Recapped the roofing project; discussed the use of the dedicated capital funds

- b. Beth Hostager presented the 2015 recap
 - i. A slide was presented on the operating results, highlighting the gap between contribution income and expenses (deficit of approx. \$80,550). Explained the deficit situation.
 - 1. Deficits were planned with a thoughtful, strategic viewpoint to support the vision and mission of St. Stephen's.
 - 2. Thanked the congregation for its support of the strategy
 - 3. The income shortfall was partially offset by favorable expenses
 - 4. Question was asked about how the expenses were budgeted
 - 5. Question was asked about the expense variances late in the year
 - 6. Beth also discussed the Finance committee's work to increase transparency in our financial statements. Brett thanked Beth and Diane and the entire committee for its excellent work in this area.
- 8. 2016 Budget Presentation (Beth, Dave, Diane)
 - a. Main drivers of expenses
 - i. Salaries and wages
 - ii. Benefits costs flat to increasing
 - iii. Property and maintenance costs: investments need to be made but being prioritized
 - b. Income gap needs to be addressed
 - i. Requesting increased pledges from entire congregation
 - c. Motion to accept the 2016 budget was made, seconded and passed by voice vote.
 - d. Jim Packer thanked the Executive committee and Amy Wilson in particular for the fantastic job done with the facilities this year, bringing planning, control, prioritization and long-deferred action to our beloved building and infrastructure. Great Job Amy!
- 9. Dave Paton gave a quick update on the Foundation. No Old Business to discuss
- 10. New Business
 - a. Resolution 1-24-2016-1, regarding name change for the Evangelism Committee to the Inviting Committee, was moved, seconded and passed by voice vote.
 - b. Delegates were requested for the Synod Conference
 - i. Debbie Pirkel
 - ii. Vicki Jackson
 - iii. Dave Paton
 - iv. Sondra Paton
 - v. Janelle Saari
 - vi. Amy Wilson
 - c. Delegates for the Synod Assembly
 - i. Darcy Mackenzie
 - ii. Debbie Pirkel
 - iii. One open
 - d. Pastor John asked the congregation to let stewardship and support sink in deeply to their thoughts and actions.

11. Pastor John led us in closing prayer
12. Jessica Donahue adjourned the meeting