

St Stephen's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: August 20th, 2014/6:00 p.m.

Location: St. Stephen's Lounge

Attendees (Absent): Dave Bergeson, Mike Bonk, Jessica Donahue, Brent Harms, Patrice Katzenmaier (Kathy Canniff), Patty Longard, Dane McKenzie, Darcy McKenzie, Steve Morganson, Cassie Nault, Tanisha Pikula, Debbie Pirkl, Lori Ritt, Doug Schmitt, John Snider, Dan Youness, Laura Vitelli, Justin Woods,

Agenda:

1. Devotions - Pastor John
2. Adopt minutes from June Council meeting
3. Brief update on John's Sabbatical
4. Q & A on Committee Reports
5. Old Business
 - a. Alternative Worship Music Minister position
6. New Business:
 - a. Changes to sign (Steve M)
 - b. Property Project List
 - c. Set Meeting Dates/Times
 - d. Other New Business
7. Adjournment – Lord's Prayer

Discussion of Agenda Items:

1. Devotions -- "upon this rock I will build my church"
 - a. The church is the rock of our life
 - b. It sustains us in difficult times
2. Motion to adopt June Council minutes seconded and approved by voice vote
3. Update of John's sabbatical
 - a. John expressed appreciation for the opportunity
 - b. African mission
 - i. The pilgrim aspect was wonderful
 - ii. The people of our partner church were gracious, loving and rich in spirit
 - c. John commented on how proud he was of St. Stephen's during the Scott Patrick funeral
4. Committee Reports
 - a. Mission Report (Debbie Pirkl for Patty Longard)
 - i. 7 Sept "God's work our hands" Sunday will have single service at 9:30

- ii. After 7 Sept service all members of the congregation are encouraged to participate in a service project – numerous projects will be available
- iii. Modified fellowship after service -- coffee to go

b. Stewardship (Laura Vitelli)

- i. As new committee chair Laura looked to council for some general guidance/information: What are we trying to accomplish?
 - 1. Campaign of awareness
 - 2. Foundation for next year's budget (start process in October)
 - 3. Turn the trend around – number of pledges have been falling
 - 4. Ensure we have funds for our outreach support to other organizations
 - 5. Ensure people understand how our financial needs are connected with/tied to our strategic initiatives
- ii. Identified that there are other members that will be assisting
- iii. Things that have been effective in the past
 - 1. The bridge effort that helped reduce funding shortfall
 - 2. Electronic pledge forms
- iv. What have past challenges been?
 - 1. Getting congregation engaged – need to get better response for pledge submittals

c. Strategy (Brent Harms)

- i. Two of four strategies pretty well in hand
- ii. Currently focusing on Equipping and Welcoming – in near term identify candidates for leadership roles for task forces to address these strategic areas

5. Old Business

- a. Alternative Worship Music Minister
 - i. Position being posted this week -- PD developed over Summer by task force
 - ii. Hiring committee will be established 4 Sept initial meeting – volunteers are welcomed
 - iii. Looking for a music minister to meet and engage the people; not just show up on Saturday
- b. Pastor Cassie Nault
 - i. still serving on fulltime basis-- consensus that we all want to keep her at this level
 - ii. Exec Committee will work with finance to “figure out a way”

6. New Business

- a. Sign Upgrade (Steve Morganson)
 - i. Three quotes obtained
 - ii. Consensus is we want an illuminated sign
 - iii. Steve to continue refining quotes

- b. Property Project List
 - i. Project List was distributed by Debbie (she will provide electronic copy to all members)
 - ii. Justin to compare it to his hard hat list
 - iii. Justin to prioritize projects near term, midterm, long term
 - iv. Looking to get replacement refrigerator/freezer for kitchen in very near term – take dimensions, get bids, determine whether we need to run water line (Jessica leading this effort)
- c. Subsequent meeting schedule
 - i. Maintain 3rd Wednesday of month (except as noted below)
 - 1. Sept 17 7:15 PM
 - 2. Oct 22 7:15 PM
 - 3. Nov 19 7:15 PM
 - 4. Dec 17 7:15 PM
 - 5. Jan 14 7:15 PM (potential 2nd meeting on 21 Jan -- TBD)
 - ii. Subsequent meetings will be scheduled once Lenten schedule is clearer

Other Discussion Items: None

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 7:20 PM

Minutes recorded and submitted by Doug Schmitt, Secretary