

January 18th, 2017
St. Stephens Lutheran Church
Council Meeting

In attendance: Pastor John Snider, Dave Bergeson*, Tiffany Cook, Marnie Gulsvig, Jessica Donohue*, Beth Hostager, Rhonda Ihrke, Diane Meyers, Dave Paton*, Debbie Pirkl*, Lori Ritt, Brett Scribner*, Annette Youness

*Executive Committee

Meeting called to order: 7:05

1. Opening prayer

Pastor John

2. Approve minutes from November meeting: Tiffany Cook motion, Brett Scribner second, carried

3. Agenda Items

a. Committee reports

Fellowship – Women’s Luncheon, March 6th, Still looking for high-quality speaker

Finance – Finance Chair Beth Hostager reviewed in detail budget to be presented at Annual Meeting, January 29

Missions – March is Minnesota Foodshare month. St. Stephens is looking to improve on last year’s result with “pack the pews” and similar activities planned for March. John Kemp, Neighbors ED, will be speaking at Adult Forum on March 5th.

Stewardship – Rhonda Ihrke spoke to regarding Stewardship and their plans for 2017. Efforts include letter to those who have not pledged and preaching on subject every other month throughout the year. 12 month calendar of “scriptures of giving”.

Worship & Music – March 1st is Ash Wednesday, Focus on “Build Your Kingdom Here”.

b. Review and approval budget for 2017 – Beth Hostager, Diane Meyers of Finance Committee reviewed 2017 budget in detail. Expense side has been well-managed but HVAC added unexpected expense in 2016 causing bigger deficit than expected. Income has declined at approximately same rate. Discussion at Annual

Meeting will include using land-sale tithe to Missions to cover 2% of church deficit in 2016.

Motion to approve: Brett Scribner, **Second:** Dave Paton

- c. **Survey results:** Debbie Pirkl noted return of 43 surveys so far. Under 50 crowd not responding as well. Reminders continuing.
 - d. Reminder about the progressive dinner coming up 1/21
 - e. Future meeting dates for council: 2/22, 3/22, 4/19, 5/17
4. **New Business** – Foundation has tentatively approved paying for new auxiliary speakers in Sanctuary contingent upon council endorsement of project completion.
5. **Old Business:**
- a. Martin Luther King Breakfast – St. Stephens was one of nine sites around TC Metro to host. Breakfast was well attended. Boy Scout Pack from St. Stephens was recognized as “Emerging Legend”, Neighbors Inc. Executive Director John Kemp recognized as “Local Legend”.
 - b. Strength finders (coming up with a date for Theresa) continued encouragement to complete for optimal Council functioning.

Adjourned at 8:20 with Lord’s Prayer