

Church Council Meeting September 13, 2022

MINUTES

Present: George Nederhoff, Bob Saathoff, Craig Blanchard, Maureen Hanson, Lisa Arenholz, Mike Christiason, Troy Olson, Danielle Terrell, Brian King

Staff Present: Angie Rath, Julia Voss

Dinner/Fellowship: Council shared dinner and conversation together.

Staff Presentations: Council welcomed Andy Walser, Visitation Ministry; and the Blessed Beginnings staff: Kim Young-Kent, Director; Kaitlin Snyder, Assistant Director; and Phil Plourde, Associate Director. Each staff person described their duties at Nazareth and they thanked the Council for their work in leading us through these challenging times. Andy, Kim, Kaitlin, and Phil all expressed their passion for what they do; they shared their dreams and goals for their ministries and answered questions that the Council had. Pastor Brian prayed over each person and ministry. Council thanked them for attending and sharing openly.

Opening Devotion: Danielle Terrell gave the devotion and study on Apostle Bartholomew (Nathaniel). Council thanked Danielle for her thorough research on the Apostle.

Call Meeting to Order: George Nederhoff called the meeting to order at 6:46 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- A motion was made (Blanchard) and seconded (Christiason) to approve the minutes from the August 9, 2022 Council meeting. Motion carried. Approved.
- A motion was made (Saathoff) and seconded (Terrell) to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting on August 23, 2022. Motion carried. Approved.

Recommendations:

- A motion was made (Christiason) and seconded (Olson) to approve awarding \$3,000 each to Taylor King and Jackson Reynolds for the Spring 2023 semester. Motion carried. Approved.
- A motion was made (Hanson) and seconded (Olson) to approve the U.S./World Missions recommendation to purchase two ultrasound units and one-year service contract totaling \$7180.00 to be paid to George Faile Foundation re: Burton Adrian. This would be paid from the Mission Fund. Motion carried. Approved.

Congregation Input: Council received input regarding concerns about the ELCA issues from Kathy Oakland, Joyce Barbatti, Julie Creeden, Laurie Larsen; and also differing views from John Reynolds. Council thanked all presenters for their time and willingness to share their thoughts leading up to the Town Hall Forum on September 25. (not present: Dan Schofield and also James/Jennifer Hoelscher, who stated differing views; views were shared via email and/or through other printed statements). George Nederhoff will follow up with an email to each speaker with the Council's plans for "next steps". Danielle Terrell will send thank you notes to speakers.

Financial Update: Craig Blanchard updated the Council on the July Financials. The General Fund balance is \$192,229.11. We will play close attention to August/September receipts. A motion was made (Olson) and seconded (Christiason) to place the July Financials on file. Motion carried. Approved.

Pastor Brian requested that a congregational update on the Financials be made in early October, and that the August/September financials could be sent by email for Council approval beforehand if needed.

President Report: George opened up discussion on the topic of ELCA affiliation. Council discussed various topics and the format for the Town Hall Forum that will take place on September 25 at 6 p.m. in the Worship Center. Julia Voss and Danielle Terrell will take minutes at the Forum and the meeting will be recorded for transcript purposes. Congregation members ONLY are able to listen to or read the transcript if they were unable to attend the meeting. Pastor Brian will make oral announcements about the upcoming Forum upfront on the next two Sundays. George Nederhoff and Bob Saathoff will be the moderators for the meeting; and the entire Council is asked to be present. Each person will be allowed three minutes to speak. Members only will be allowed to speak on the issues.

Senior Pastor Report: Pastor Brian referred to his report. He reported that the Picnic on August 21 was a huge success and that the Fall Kick Off on September 11 was very well attended. Pastor Brian is excited about the ALPHA sermon series that has begun. He voiced his concerns on Nazareth engagement, navigating the ELCA issues, and the significant transitions we have at Naz this fall with open positions, making for low staff morale.

A motion was made (Saathoff) and seconded (Blanchard) to have the approved Council minutes uploaded on the Naz website each month. Julia Voss will talk to Sam Madson, Communications Director, about getting a notice put in the newsletter about this update and change.

Council also asked to have weekly/monthly attendance numbers sent to them. Julia Voss will talk to with Terri Packard, membership/office secretary and get these sent out.

Discussion took place about the By-Laws Task Force working on updating the Nazareth By-Laws. Questions were asked for clarification purposes and Maureen Hanson will have more to report at the October meeting with a possible draft for the Council to review. There was also discussion about having an external audit performed this year.

Administrator Report: Angie Rath referred to her report in the packet. They will begin a renewed search for a Blessed Beginnings Director at the first of the new year.

Committee Reports: Minutes from Committees were in the packet for Council to review.

Old Business/New Business:

Lisa Arenholz referred to the Faith Doctrine/Statement of Faith that was discussed at the August meeting and would like Nazareth to have something that Council and Staff would sign. Pastor Brian and Angie Rath are working on a mutual accountability contract and will report back to Council in October.

A motion was made (Olson) and seconded (Blanchard) to regretfully accept Juanita Kimpston's resignation from the Church Council. The Council will keep Juanita in their prayers as she faces a challenging year in teaching. Council will send a card to Juanita via Danielle Terrell wishing her the best.

Reminders:

- Next Council meeting is October 11 with dinner at 5:45. Troy will speak on Apostle Matthew.
- Staff will present on their ministries at October 11 meeting: Facilities Team

Adjourn: A motion was made (Olson) and seconded (Blanchard) to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Brian closed in prayer.

**Minutes submitted by Julia Voss
Executive Secretary**