

Church Council Meeting

November 8, 2022

MINUTES

Present: George Nederhoff, Bob Saathoff, Craig Blanchard, Maureen Hanson, Lisa Arenholz, Mike Christiason (Zoom), Troy Olson, Danielle Terrell

Staff Present: Angie Rath, Julia Voss

Dinner/Fellowship: Council shared dinner together.

Opening Prayer: Council met in the Chapel. Troy Olson taught on the Apostle Matthew and ended in prayer. George Nederhoff read from Scripture before departing from Chapel.

Call Meeting to Order: George Nederhoff called the meeting to order at 6:23 p.m.

Council Opening: George Nederhoff asked council for any names/nominees to fill the open spot on the Church Council. Discussion took place. Julie Creeden was appointed by the council. Julie was contacted by George Nederhoff and joined the remainder of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

- A motion was made (Hanson) and seconded (Arenholz) to approve the minutes from the October 11, 2022 Council meeting. Motion carried. Approved.
- A motion was made (Blanchard) and seconded (Saathoff) to approve the minutes from the Special By-Law Council meeting on October 30, 2022. Motion carried. Approved.

Recommendations:

- A motion was made (Olson) and seconded (Hanson) to approve the Local Missions recommendation to fund \$8,000 to the Wings of Refuge. Motion carried. Approved.
- A motion was made (Hanson) and seconded (Saathoff) to approve the U.S./World Missions recommendation to fund \$10,000 to SEND NORTH. Motion carried. Approved.

Financial Update: Craig Blanchard updated the Council on the September Financials. The General Fund was at \$82,461.08 the end of September. A special Finance Meeting will be held this week to review financials. A motion was made (Blanchard) and seconded (Olson) to place the September Financials on file. Motion carried. Approved.

Congregation Input: John Lehman from the Blessed Beginnings Committee presented an update on the financials from Blessed Beginnings. Discussion took place.

President Report: George Nederhoff gave an update on the Pastoral search. George has been in contact with Bishop Kevin Jones with the Northeastern Iowa Synod and one potential interim pastor has been identified and he is praying/discerning the opportunity.

Discussion took place by the Church Council on a Statement of Faith and a Staff Mutual Accountability Form. Maureen Hanson, George Nederhoff, and Lisa Arenholz will speak with Andy Walser and Pastor Bob Ericson for more guidance and input.

George Nederhoff gave an update from the Nominating Committee that he serves on with Bob Saathoff, Kyle Brown, Diane Curtis, and Kim Young-Kent. The Committee is discerning names and will interview three final candidates to be voted in by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting in January.

Council was invited to attend a special educational meeting on November 9th to learn more about Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ.

A motion was made (Olson) and seconded (Blanchard) to hold a Special Congregational Meeting on the Nazareth By-Laws on Sunday, December 11 at 12:30 p.m. Motion carried. Approved.

A motion was made (Olson) and seconded (Hanson) to schedule educational/table talks to give the Congregation a chance to ask questions regarding the By-Law proposed changes on December 4 between services in Bethel Hall and also on December 5 at 6:30 p.m. in Bethel Hall. Motion carried. Approved.

The council had discussion on prayer teams and are continuing to look for team leaders and members to pray for the church, the congregation, the Council, and the staff.

A motion was made (Creeden) and seconded (Arenholz) to recommend Nazareth leave the ELCA pending approval from the congregation. Motion failed 5 to 4.

Maureen Hanson will attend the November 14 staff meeting to review the By-Law changes with the staff. Bob Saathoff and Craig Blanchard will attend the December 12 staff meeting with any council updates.

Administrator Report: Angie Rath referred to her report in the packet. Angie reported that the staff held a 3-hour Strategic Planning meeting to talk about the health of the staff following the resignation of Pastor Brian. Angie explained how it was a healing process for the staff with feelings expressed freely, followed by Worship time and Bible study. Angie shared the Naz Organizational chart with the Council. Angie explained that at this time the position of Finance Manager would not be hired and they will proceed with Hogan Hansen Firm until further notice.

Angie presented a draft of the Agenda and Rules for the Special By-Laws meeting on December 11. A motion was made (Hanson) and seconded (Blanchard) to approve the agenda and rules. Motion carried. Approved.

Committee Reports: Minutes from Committees were in the packet for Council to review. George asked Julie Creeden, new council member, to discern which committee(s) she may want to serve on and to report back at the December meeting.

New Business: Council referred to the request from Kits/Quilts for more space and will reach out to Donna Kirschenmann to find out if this is still a need and allow 5-10 minutes at the next Council meeting to tour the Kits/Quilts area in the Underground.

Julie Creeden asked Council to discern and provide scripture at the next Council meeting regarding our ELCA affiliation. Discussion also took place that the Worship Team will be contacted by George Nederhoff and Julie Creeden for more information on the Nazareth Pulpit.

The Teaching Team has the names of fill-in speakers for any Nazareth sermons and will make decisions on any holes that need to be filled.

Letter of Dissent: A motion was made (Arenholz) and seconded (Creeden) to send the Letter of Dissent to the ELCA with monetary revisions made and a roll-call vote with names listed in the minutes.

Danielle Terrell: No

Maureen Hanson: Yes

George Nederhoff: Yes

Julie Creeden: Yes

Craig Blanchard: No

Troy Olson: No

Lisa Arenholz: Yes

Bob Saathoff: Yes

Motion carried. Approved.

Reminders:

- The regular Council meeting will be Tuesday, December 13 at 5:45 p.m. with dinner. Maureen Hanson will speak on the Apostle James the Less.
- In Gathering Sunday is this Sunday, November 13.
- By-Law Meeting for Congregational vote will be December 11 at 12:30 p.m.

Adjourn: A motion was made (Blanchard) and seconded (Terrell) to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 p.m. Motion carried. Approved.

Closing Prayer: The Council prayed The Lord's Prayer.

**Minutes submitted by Julia Voss
Executive Secretary**