

Council Minutes

January 15, 2024, 6:00 pm

Attending: Dan Strehlow, Deborah Dreher, Sadie Reiners, Pam Hoffman, Natalie Carda, Marjorie Peterson, Abby Mattimiro, Warren Thomas, Pastor Geier, Alex Zuzek, Delores Pemble, Maria Gathje, Jen Klos and Lois Twedt

Call to Order by President Dan Strehlow at 6:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report, Lois Twedt

Pam made a motion to accept the Secretary's Report. Natalie seconded the motion. The Secretary's Report was approved.

Treasurer Deborah Dreher

No Council Action Required

Introductions of FMT members were made to Dolores Pemble, nominated candidate for Treasurer. Review of December 2023 Financial Reports: Comparing Actual Giving to Budget, Giving is under Budget by 9.68% and Expenses are 20.03 % under Budget. Net Income is \$117,300. Compared with 2022 Actual Giving, 2023, Giving is down 3.2%. We ended 2023 in a strong financial position!

On December 28, 2023, an additional principal mortgage payment in the amount of \$10,000, was paid to Merchants Bank, our mortgage holder. As a reminder, after three months payments in reserve, we make additional principal mortgage payments.

The year-end tithe calculation was reviewed. As decided by Council in December 2023, the tithe calculation will be distributed evenly between two non-profit organizations within Hastings and two beyond Hastings. The organizations, each receiving \$5,741, are Hastings Family Service, United Way of Hastings Food4Kids, United Way 211-Youth Mental Health Helpline and My Very Own Bed. Total amount is \$22,965, down from 2022 by approximately \$700.

An update regarding 2024 pledge cards: 105 pledge cards returned. General pledge total \$329,880 (2024 proposed budget \$325,000) and Capital pledge total \$160,162 (2024 proposed budget \$190,000 but \$161,700 needed for annual P/I payments). We are very pleased with these results, and historically, a few more pledge cards are returned during January.

The congregation Budget Review session is scheduled after worship on Sunday, January 28, 2024. Members of the Finance Ministry Team will be in attendance.

A motion was made by Natalie and seconded by Warren to accept the November Treasurer's Financial Report. The motion passed.

Vice President Sadie Reiners

No Council Action Required

The B & G team did not convene but did its jobs like get the shovels and salt out which is done by Bill Pavlish.

As a team we decided to accept a bid to have the pew benches professionally cleaned after a full 10 plus years of use. All upholstered folding chairs will also be cleaned. This cost will be approximately \$3000. The firm is also used by Our Savior's, based in Burnsville. Tim Sommers is the operator. He will begin the cleaning Monday, January 22, 2024.

The B & G team also decided to contract with Plunkett Pest Control for the incidence of mice and ants that frequent the building. The contract will be a money-saver in general with four preventive reviews of the building every year. Cost for this contract is \$550.

The annual report has been submitted.

We forecast the expenditure of two mini split AC units for the old sanctuary in '24. Bathricks has been told to get the units and install them by June 1. Cost of this will be close to \$11,000. This job was included in the '24 budget.

If funds allow in '24, the repair of a drain on the south border of the parking lot will be done. This break was patched by Steve Wolverton and Bill Pavlish and is holding up well. Repairing it permanently would be about \$4500.

The snow melt issue has a solution which we'll do in the future. In the meantime, Precision is instructed to pile plowed snow onto the parking lot surface along the south rim, taking up about 8 to 10 parking spots.

The team of nine remains the same. They devote their skills to fixes that save SPLC many maintenance bills.

Serving Ministry Report--Pam Hoffman

No Council Action Required

Fellowship Ministry

Philadazzle committee thought things went pretty well. Maybe a few tweaks for next time.

St Philip's will host a bloodmobile drive on March 14.

We will again send a small book to our 2023 high school graduates.

We will help with the Annual Meeting potluck.

Stewardship

The Stewardship Team met Tues. JA 9th to summarize its 2023 year. The annual report written by Glenda was edited by the team and submitted to Lista on time.

The fall campaign, “Community Grows Here” was regarded as successful even though the return of response cards was down a bit. The achievement of completing the mural and building spirit in the congregation is regarded to have been a good thing. Fifty-nine people registered 200 volunteer hours in its completion. All painters were given a commemorative poster as a “thank you”.

Factual results of the fall campaign are as follows:

Response Cards returned for General Fund - 100 (down 13 from last year) for \$329,880 (up \$58,990)

Response Cards for Capital Fund - 83 (up 1 from last year) for \$160,162 (up \$620)

Very pleased to be in the positive for both General and Capital. Non-pledged giving makes up the difference to meet budget.

St. Philip’s mortgage was decreased by \$100,434 in 2023 due to good giving. One extra payment of \$10,000 toward principle was done at year-end.

At present, the mortgage balance is \$1,795,091. The terms of its payments remain the same, at \$13,500 monthly to Merchants bank. We’re never late and hold a reserve fund to ensure timely payments.

Pledge Sunday was Dec. 10, followed by a pancake breakfast which was enjoyed by 120 guests. It was a good day.

Other action at the JA 9th meeting was discussion to be more intentional in lifting up “Simply Giving” through the website, newsletter and screen ads during worship. Thirty-three households give through the Simply Giving program.

At the JA 9th, ’24 meeting, Deborah Dreher joined the Stewardship Team.

HR Report—Natalie Carda

No Council Action Required

Nothing to report.

Worship Ministry Report– Marjorie Peterson

No Council Action Required.

Service de-brief:

Blue Christmas service - There was a low attendance, but it was gratefully received. Suggestions for next year: 4:00 pm starting time, add communion, serve coffee and cookies after, and live streaming which was suggested by some home-bound members.

Christmas Eve - attendance numbers of three services matched the numbers of previous years. Some members attended the morning service rather than an evening service.

Dec. 31 - Lessons and Carols - 138 in attendance. A suggestion was made to have readers sit in the front pew to improve the flow.

Looking ahead: Music planning was done. The sermon theme for Lenten services will be "I Am" from the book of John.

A card was received from Bells of the Bluff thanking St. Philip's for hosting the concert of May 6, 2023.

February - Our agenda will include Easter planning, outdoor service planning, and acquiring worship musicians.

Learning Ministries Report –Abby Mattimiro

No Council Action Required

Preschool:

- Enrollment has stayed the same at 53 spots filled
- Tuition for next year was discussed. After reviewing other preschools in the area rates for either next year if available or current the following was decided
M/W/F will go from \$190 a month to \$195
T/Th will go from \$160 a month to \$165
M-F will stay at \$315
Registration fees will stay at \$60
These prices will be the same as Tilden's for T/Th and for M/W/F classes and \$10 higher for 5 days. (note Tilden is a 2 ½ hours a day and we are 3)
- Registration for the 2024/2025 school year starts for current and church families Feb 20th and opens to everyone Feb 27th at 5:30. We will have public registration night from 5:30-6:30 on the 2/27.
- Budget was reviewed.
- Raise right fundraiser is off and running as an ongoing event. With help from Dolores Pemble. Dolores spoke Sunday at the church service and was available to answer questions after. Orders are going to be due by the third Sunday of the month moving forward for at least the next six months. The first plan is to pay for the spring field trip with many other options discussed if the program takes off.
- Preschool annual report was reviewed by members and approved by team to submit.
- Next meeting will be Feb 5th at 5:30.

ASG:

No report.

Faith Formation:

No report.

Communication/Marketing/Tech Report – Warren Thomas

No Council Action Required

CMT investigated wiring and options for replacing cameras. I'm going to order a few different cameras and test and next meeting narrow down what would be the best for the church's usage. We may want to have power outlets installed at each location where a camera will be if we want to go wireless.

Also, there is a known issue with the display in the front not showing slides correctly. Jay is looking into the issue.

The committee is still looking into implementing a QR Code for giving.

Pastor Geier – January 2024 Council Report

Since our last council meeting, I have primarily spent time visiting nursing home and homebound and hospitalized members, preparing for Christmas related services, newsletter and annual meeting prep, and taking time off to visit grandchildren in Milwaukee and parents in CA.

- The Blue Christmas service was lightly attended but appreciated by those who were there. I will be following up with some of those who participated to see what changes might be appreciated in the future.
- I led our preschool chapel on January 3rd and 4th.
- I led worship at Oak Ridge on December 20th and at Regina on January 3rd.

Thanks for your partnership in the Gospel.

Your Servant in Christ,

Gregory A. Geier, Pastor

Old Business:

Deborah made a motion to accept the amendment model that has been put forward by the Church Wide Assembly. Natalie seconded the motion. The motion was approved. This amendment will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting for Congregation approval.

Jen and Katie met with Ruby's Pantry Coordinator, Roxanne, and are looking at a March/April start date.

Notices need to be printed in the February Newsletter and future bulletins to remind members that all motions presented at the Annual Meeting need to be submitted in print form prior to the meeting.

New Business:

President Dan Strehlow welcomed present future members of the Council Alex Zuzek, Delores Pemble, Jen Klos and Maria Gathje. He thanked outgoing members Sadie Reiners, Deborah Dreher, Pam Hoffman, Marjorie Peterson and Abby Mattimiro for their years of service to the Council and St. Philips.

A motion was made by Pam and seconded by Abby to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Submitted by Lois Twedt, Secretary