

MINUTES

Congregational Church Council

December 18, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by President Ron Kirchdoerfer. Members present: Randy Neumann, Pat Olson, Janet Rivard, Rhonda Passolt, Ron Kirchdoerfer, Pastor Joel Bacon, Linda Beck, Dan Bergschnieder, Erinn Bratley and Eric Neff. Members absent: Tom Matthiae and Sari Torstenson.

Pastor's Opening Prayer stressed love and acceptance..

Motion was made by Rhonda to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Randy. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Rhonda to approve November 13, 2023 Minutes. Seconded by Linda. Motion passed.

Financial Report was presented and a Motion was made by Rhonda to approve it. Seconded by Erinn. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report: We are looking for a volunteer Newsletter producer. This will appear in the bulletin this Sunday.

We are seeking two members to attend the Synod meeting to vote at the Assembly. This request will appear in the bulletin.

Thirty poinsettias were sold for \$20 each. The profit will be donated to Cash for Cans to the Hayward Food Shelf. Comment was made that they are very nice.

Lefsa was made at Water's Edge today. Nice turnout of residents.

Pastor stated that finding musical accompaniment is taking quite a bit of his time and concern. He is trying to avoid electronic accompaniment.

Motion to approve Pastor's Report was made by Eric. Seconded by Dan. Motion approved.

Property Report: Submitted by Tom in his absence as Minutes of last Property meeting. The Budget for Property was discussed and no major changes were made. Some exterior lights under the soffits have been installed. The lighting near the main entry requires a lift so they will be done when a lift is available. Topsoil work was completed at the Parsonage. Painter was contracted to paint the high walls in the sanctuary and the block walls in the choir and band areas. Volunteers, with Jeff Hubbard coordinating, will paint the side walls in the Sanctuary. Work on the main hall bathrooms will begin in 2024. Ray and Pastor will begin to move Pastor's office across the hall after the first of the year. Discussion about removing the two spruce trees is pending. No new snowblower needed for the Parsonage at this time.

Personnel Committee interviewed Pat Barnett for music accompanist. At this time they have not received information about his requirements. He is very talented. He is currently employed with the schools in the Spooner/Shell Lake area.

Youth: The Christmas program was a huge success.

Music and Worship. Pastor has plans to use lots of white candles through Epiphany; the season of light.

The Committee Reports were accepted by a Motion by Linda. Seconded by Janet. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion about church hours on the door were tabled since Tanya has posted hours on her door and that seems to be working.

Budget for 2024 was presented.

NEW BUSINESS

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is scheduled for January 28, 2024 directly after the 9:30 service. Motion was made by Rhonda to accept that date.. Seconded by Randy. Motion passed.

The Budget hearings will be January 21st after the 9:30 service and January 24 at 4 P.M. Motion was made by Randy to accept those dates. Seconded by Rhonda. Motion passed.

Council decided on Staff Christmas gifts.

Discussion was held about the Lenten Offering. Decision was made to have a split offering. Half to the House of Hope which assist men and half to Sawyer County Health and Human Services which assist women. Motion by Rhonda to designate these for our Lenten Offering. Seconded by Eric. Motion passed.

For the Good of the Order by Rhonda: To recognize a different organization or committee each week. A short statement in the Bulletin and a thank you in announcements by Pastor. The idea was accepted.

Adjournment Motion by Linda at 6:45. Seconded by Erinn.

Respectfully submitted
Pat Olson, Secretary