

## SLT Meeting

June 14, 2023 (5:30 pm)

Attending:   Bev Enger                                 Derek Woehl  
                  Bill Bertram                         Jan McCarthy  
                  Holly Neuberger                     Phil Mueller  
                  Pastor Duane Coates  
                  Randi Watterson, Recorder  
Absent:       Michelle Grebel                         Bonnie Ranum  
                  Katy VanDyke                             Mary Lee Nielson

Devotions/Prayer – Pastor Duane, Genesis 28, v10-19  
Jacob’s Ladder

Approval of Agenda – Holly Neuberger moved to approve the agenda. 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Approved.

Approval of Minutes from May 10, 2023 – Phil Mueller moved to approve the  
minutes. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved.

Nomination/Election – there is an upcoming meeting of the nomination group  
regarding the treasurer position.

Old Business: Audit Update - The church finance audit will take place on Friday,  
June 15, 2023. The auditors are Curt VanDyke, Avis Richter, Rhonda Marshall, and  
Kelly Pederson. The church treasurers will be bringing completed forms and  
receipts. Niki will be present to answer questions.

Church Directory – Pictures for the church directory will be taken on August 22<sup>nd</sup>  
and 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2:00 to 8:30 pm. There will be an on-line signup system, with choice  
of templates and background. Informational posters will arrive by June 29<sup>th</sup>.

Membership Cultivation Update – Pastor Duane will create a letter regarding the  
pictorial directory, which will include an inquiry about membership status.

New Business: Water Heater – Jan McCarthy, trustee, reported that the water  
heater flips the circuit breaker off after heavy use and has to be reset every  
Sunday morning. Terry Bitz has been hired to clean it, to see if that makes a  
difference in how it works. Bev Enger moved to purchase two tankless units, if the  
cleaning doesn’t solve the problem. Each tank will cost between \$3,500 and  
\$4,000. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved.

Annual Conference – The theme was “Encounter. Transform. Respond. The Emmaus Experience.” The questions put forth were “What do we do now?” and “How do we move forward?”. 24 church disaffiliations were approved. These churches can purchase their church building for \$1.00. Oasis churches will be established for members of the disaffiliated churches, who do not wish to disaffiliate. These members may attend an Oasis church on-line or in person. They may also choose to create a satellite church or a new church. An elder was appointed for conference wide on-line church services. The apportionment rate was set at 13 ½ % based on ability to pay. Epworth was well represented at the conference. Brenda Lint was named “Youth Worker of the Year”.

Traveling Performers – Two performers wish to perform at Epworth this summer. Josh Novey, a comedian and Brent Vernon, a ventriloquist/singer/songwriter. Josh Novey was not recommended by Pastor Duane. Brent Vernon looked promising. It was decided to look in to having Brent Vernon perform sometime next summer. This would allow time to review his performance, get references and get the word out to the public.

Parking Lot Patching – Phil Mueller will check with Lori Glaser regarding past driveway maintenance. The trustee group will be working on deciding what patching needs to be done.

Pastor’s Report – There will be a blood drive at Epworth on July 5<sup>th</sup>. A coordinator is needed. Our Savior’s Church has invited Epworth members to attend a discussion on “How to welcome neighbors better – relationship building across churches.” This is scheduled for June 22 (6:30 to 8:00).

Pastor Duane will be teaching at “Licensing School” regarding 1) United Methodism and 2) Church Administration. This will take place near Summit, SD on June 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Pastor Duane will also be helping at the Hi-Liner Food Pantry on July 19<sup>th</sup> and July 26<sup>th</sup>. Cindy will be having surgery on her neck on July 5<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Duane will be assisting her before and following her procedure. Kalen Heller will fill the pulpit on July 9<sup>th</sup> and Anita Tulp will fill the pulpit on July 16<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Duane will be in Springfield, Illinois to take part in the North Central Jurisdiction Commission on Archives and History from July 13<sup>th</sup> through July 17<sup>th</sup>. Beginning on June 26<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Duane will be moving his day off from Monday to Friday. Xavier, Cindy’s oldest son, is working at Wesley Acres this summer. Kevin Tulp helped him fix his car. Pastor Duane has been appointed to Epworth United Methodist Church for another year.

Workgroup Reports:

Trustees – The windows of the parsonage will be measured for blinds. Public works will need to remove branches from electrical lines behind the parsonage. The batteries in the church exit signs have been replaced. The leaking pipe on the east side of the church has been repaired. The hole has been filled, covered, and seeded. The church had to purchase a new saw blade for a concrete cutter, but all other expenses were covered by Century Link.

The new hydraulic desk has been installed in the office of the Office Administrator. Anita Tulp received the old desk. Cassidy has requested a wrist support for her desk. A new Blue Spruce tree has been planted on the north side of the church. It was purchased by Dawn Thomsen's cousin and family in honor of Don and Pat Malec (Dawn's father and late mother). There was discussion regarding the new security system. Thoughtful discussion and research among members will be conducted regarding when the church should be locked and when it should be open. The gathering space lights will be left on when Pastor Duane and Cassidy are present, so people know that someone is present in the church. There needs to be information and training for church members regarding how to use the security system and its value to member safety. Patience is a virtue.

Financial Workgroup - Derek Woehl discussed the May financial statement. Telephone and internet costs have risen.

The cost of snow removal was high for the past winter.

Phil Mueller moved to accept the May financial report. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved.

Staff Parish - VCSU used our church building for part of their basketball camp activities. A grad school reception was also held at Epworth. Virlyn purchased Holly Grounds coupons for each Washington School employee for an end of the school year treat. Church members chipped in to pay for the coupons. Virlyn came out \$5.00 ahead.

Derek Woehl moved to not have an SLT meeting in July. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved. The next SLT meeting will be on August 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

Pastor Duane closed the meeting with prayer and dismissal.

Randi Watterson, Recorder