

## SLT Meeting

August 9, 2023 (5:30 pm)

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

Absent: Bev Enger and Anita Tulp

Staff attending: Lance Drevecky, Music Director

Devotions by Pastor Duane

Phil Mueller moved to accept the agenda. 2<sup>nd</sup> – approved.

Phil Mueller moved to accept the minutes from June 14, 2023. 2<sup>nd</sup> – approved.

Staff - Lance Drevecky stated that the choir will continue to meet to practice on Wednesday of each week and will sing twice each month. The praise team will also continue to practice and perform. Lance will be cleaning out some of the old music and will be working on cleaning up and refurbishing the balcony area. Nicola Kjelland may be interested in playing piano/organ on occasion. Appreciation was expressed for Lance, Marian, Hayley and Cyndi Hill for their service in providing the music each Sunday.

Nomination/Election – Pastor Duane reached out to the nomination committee members, but only Bev Enger responded. Jan McCarthy said she would like to be taken off the Nominations Committee.

Old Business – The 2022 Financial Audit was completed with four issues that need to be addressed. 1) The Epworth Holy Grounds account could not be reconciled in full. The finance committee will be meeting with Dawn Thomsen and Mike Watterson. 2) The finance committee will discuss with Virlyn Hoff about transferring the Congregational Care petty cash fund into the General Fund. 3) It was recommended that the Youth Group designate a Treasurer and inform SLT of who it is. 4) It was recommended that conference receipts be tested against transactions. Any government payments (IRS) should be included in the transactions audited, as well.

No major problems were found, but the finance committee recommends a yearly audit be conducted.

There are church members who give to the church using Paypal. This money was recently downloaded to the General Fund and will now be downloaded monthly. There is a 3% transaction fee for each contribution. Holly Neuberger moved to approve the 2022 Financial Audit. 2<sup>nd</sup> – approved.

Church Pictorial Directory – An informational letter will be sent to each church member, with the last paragraph asking for the member’s current status and any changes they would like to make. The dates for the pictures to be taken are August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Eight photos can be submitted of people who could not have their pictures taken on those dates. The church earns points toward activity pages according to the number of members photographed. Bev Enger and Jan McCarthy are involved in the layout of the directory.

New Business – Valley City State University – “Vikes on Central” will be on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>. “Marketplace” will take place on campus on Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Epworth Holy Grounds will be represented at the Marketplace event. Pastor Duane will take part in the “Vikes on Central” event. Anyone else, who would like to take part in either of these upcoming events, is welcome. Amber Knutson, one of the baristas at Epworth Holy Grounds, will be asked about taking part in the “Marketplace” event. Prevention magazine – this magazine examines health issues and presents information regarding young people. An ad for Epworth would cost \$90. It was decided to find out if VCHS receives this magazine and if so, how they are using it.

Pastor’s Report – A special session of the Annual Conference will take place on Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>. Fifteen churches from North and South Dakota are disaffiliating in this round for a net total of 57 Dakotas United Methodist churches disaffiliating. Cindy continues to recover from her surgery and is off work until Labor Day. Church member addresses and status need to be updated. There will be a follow-up letter sent regarding this, after the letter regarding the Church Directory.

Workgroup Reports – Trustees – new blinds will be ordered, from Menards, for the kitchen in the parsonage. George McCarthy will measure for them. The church water heater has been replaced with one tankless heater for \$4200. It produced enough hot water to handle the men’s corn feed event. Steve Nielson and George McCarthy fixed the garbage disposal. Shingles were replaced on the damaged part of the church roof. The church refrigerator has been fixed. A new lawn trimmer was ordered from Smith Lumber. The sound booth has been worked on and is looking great! There are still a few things to be completed on it.

Financial Workgroup – June and July financials were looked at and discussed. Pastor Duane pointed out that the General Fund balance was \$34,112.22 as compared to \$58,069 last year. Average giving per week is up \$2,700 from last year. Some expenditures are up. Pastor Duane would like the finance group to look at the expense of BEK for the parsonage, as it compares to what is used. The budget process for 2024 was discussed. Katy VanDyke moved to accept the June and July Financial Reports. – 2<sup>nd</sup> – approved.

Staff Parish – Bonnie Ranum talked about the pastor's evaluation. It was very positive!

Epworth's Holy Grounds – Pastor Duane mentioned that the monthly funds transfers from the kiosk account to the current-expense account of the church will remain suspended until EHG has \$10,000 built up in savings. With the savings account now a little more than \$5,000, this may take through the end of the calendar year. In the six years between Feb. 2017, when the kiosk opened, through January of this year, when the transfers were suspended, the kiosk transferred \$38,550 to the church's current expense account.

We Love Washington School – Pastor Duane would like to do a prayer walk around Washington Elementary School on Aug. 20, the last Sunday before public schools start in Valley City. It seemed that 4 p.m. was an appropriate time.

Next meeting: Sept. 13, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. Katy VanDyke will be the recorder.

Randi Watterson, Recorder