

SLT Meeting

Wed., January 17, 2024 (5:30pm)

Attending: Katy Van Dyke Phil Mueller
Avis Richter Pastor Duane Coates
Anita Tulp Alyssa Thomsen
Jan McCarthy Bev Enger
Bruce Larson Gail Pederson
Barb Owen Holly Neuberger
Randi Watterson (Recorder)

Absent: Justin Horsager Bill Bertram

Devotions: Mark 1:14-15
Hope beyond today (Pastor Duane)

Prayer: Pastor Duane

Approve Agenda: Phil Mueller asked that a short discussion, regarding how we designate funds in our weekly bulletin, be added to the agenda.

Phil moved to approve the agenda. 2nd. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Avis Richter stated that the balance in the checking account is \$78,900. It will be \$59,783 after all bills have been paid.

Avis will be working on 2023 to update balances. There is enough to make the monthly payments.

New Business:

Phil Mueller moved to remove Mary Lee Nielson and Lori Glaser from the Capital Campaign Account and to replace them with Avis Richter and Katy Van Dyke. 2nd. Approved.

Barb Owen moved to remove Mary Lee Nielson, Mike Watterson, Anita Tulp, and Lori Glaser from the Church Checking Account and to replace them with Avis Richter and Katy Van Dyke. 2nd. Approved.

Approval of Minutes: A change was made to the next meeting date on the December 13, 2023 minutes. The date of the next meeting was changed to Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 5:30 pm. Phil Mueller moved to accept the minutes. 2nd. Approved.

Old Business:

Membership Cultivation Letter – change “I would like the Pastor to contact me” to “I would like the Pastor, the Staff/Parish Chair or the Lay Leader to contact me.”

Pastor Duane will decide as to where this request will be posted – “If you have children who were confirmed at Epworth, we need their updated address.”

Safer Sanctuary Task Force – There will be training on a Saturday in February. Pastor Duane is working on a list of people to be included, as well as a scheduled date.

New Business:

Pastor Duane moved to nominate Bruce Larson as Vice-President of the SLT. 2nd. Approved.

Pastor’s Report – Vision – There is an epidemic of loneliness in our country. The local church should be a spiritual trauma center.

A letter will be sent out by e-mail, by the end of this week, to 7th and 8th grade youth and their parents regarding coming together to discuss Confirmation.

Pictorial directories will arrive on Friday, January 19th. We will receive 95 directories, which is 20% more than pictures taken. A notice regarding the directories will be placed in the Weekly Bulletin and Newsletter.

Pastor Dick Unkenholtz, age 96, passed away. He was here during the church build.

There will be a Webinar on February 22nd regarding the responsibilities of the Staff-Parish Relations members.

February 18th will be United Women of Faith Sunday.

February 14th is Ash Wednesday.

There will be a Lenten Service each Wednesday evening, beginning on February 21st through March 20th in the Gathering Space.

The study topic for the Lenten Services will be “Multiplying Love” (including LGBTQ) by Paul Chilcote.

There will be an Ecumenical Service on Sunday January 21st in the Chapel of St. Raphael led by Pastor Kyle Symanski entitled “Loving God and Loving Neighbor”.

Trustees Workgroup Report – Bruce Larson reported that an Insurance Inspection found that the seven electrical boxes in the church were made with aluminum, which can lead to arcing and electrical shortages (possible sparks, fire, and accidental electrocution). Steve Nielson is working with Kohn Electric to come up with an estimate of the replacement cost. The inspections are done every other

year. The inspectors need to know that Epworth is working toward meeting their standard.

Bruce Larson moved to have Pastor Duane sign a 3-year service agreement with BEK for the parsonage and the church. 2nd. Approved.

Pastor Duane will apply for a Property Tax Exemption for Church Property.

Financial Workgroup – December 2023 giving was \$37,553.75.

“Daily Expenses” as stated in the Weekly Church Bulletin will be changed to read “General Fund Giving”. It is called “Current expense offering” on the Treasurer’s Report.

Avis Richter will have information on the Capital Campaign and refinancing of the building loan for next month’s meeting. A balloon payment is due on March 13, 2024. The Finance Work Group will meet before the February SLT meeting.

Staff/Parish – Regarding an emergency closure of the church during week days (business days), with pay for the office administrator: Katy and Bev will make a decision, together, regarding an emergency closure of the church during weekdays, if the Pastor is unavailable to make this decision. The church will follow school closure policy or when no travel is advised (Interstate closed).

Last Sunday’s Service was cancelled, per decision of Pastor Paul Lint, due to poor weather conditions.

Nominations – There were two errors in the January Newsletter regarding New SLT Members Justin Horsager (Finance) and Gail Pederson (Staff/Parish).

A letter of resignation, as of June 14, 2024, was received from Hayley Winkler, Christian Education Director. This is following Bible School.

Ongoing Signature Ministries – Epworth Holy Grounds year-end data was extremely positive. The kiosk staff plans to sell items during the January Car Show at the Winter Show Building. A new menu has been printed which includes Lotus drinks and some adjusted prices. There has been no pushback from clients regarding the higher prices. Long-term staff have been rewarded.

The next SLT meeting will be on Monday, February 12th at 5:15 pm.

Prayer and Adjournment.