

SLT Meeting
November 8, 2023 (5:30pm)

Attending:

Derek Woehl	Phil Mueller
Katy Van Dyke	Anita Tulp
Bruce Larson	Bill Bertram
Bev Enger	Marylee Nielson
Pastor Duane Coates	Jan McCarthy
Randi Watterson (recorder)	

Absent:

Michelle Grebel	Bonnie Ranum
Holly Neuberger	

Devotions/Prayer: Pastor Duane opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Agenda: Phil Mueller moved to approve the agenda. 2nd. Approved.

Approval of Minutes (October 18, 2023): Katy Van Dyke moved to approve the minutes. 2nd. Approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

The cultivation letters have not been mailed out, as there are many addresses still needed. It was suggested that letters be mailed to those addresses we have, as we continue to work on finding the addresses still needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cause for Christmas Eve offering – Katy Van Dyke moved to split the Christmas Eve offering between the Backpack Program and the Barnes County Food Pantry. 2nd. Approved.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Duane has been preparing for the annual Church/Charge Conference, which is set for Sunday, Nov. 12th at 6:00pm, with a 5:00pm potluck meal to precede the meeting.

Cassidy and Bev worked on the church directory and got it sent last week. Hopefully, the finished product will arrive by February 1st.

New member orientation will be held on Wednesday, November 15th at 4:30pm. There are 3 to 5 people who plan to attend, and letters will be sent out inviting

another 10 to 12. There are about 20 people who count this as their church and contribute to it, but aren't members.

On confirmation – will be sending out an invitation by the end of the month inviting parents to a meeting where we discuss how best to deliver the information.

Volunteers are needed to deliver backpacks for the next two weeks. Tuesday, Nov. 21st and Thursday, Nov. 30th.

A noisy offering will be taken on Sunday, November 19th for the Hi-Liner Backpack Program. (Raising money all month.)

Pastor Duane is preaching at Legacy, St. Raphael Care Center and the Community Thanksgiving Service on Nov. 19th.

On November 26th, United Methodist Student Day will be observed with a special offering.

Pastor Duane will conduct a three-week stewardship sermon series starting next Sunday, Nov. 12th. It's based on a book by the Rev. Kent Millard, who grew up and served in the Dakotas before transferring to the Indiana Conference and serving a very large church there.

Advent begins on Dec. 3rd. The congregational study is called "Experiencing Christmas" and is about engaging the season with our senses. It will be the focus of worship, adult Sunday school in the library and Thursday Bible study. Books are available in the office for \$15.00.

We will have one Christmas Eve Service on Sunday, Dec. 24th at 5:00 pm. That morning at 10:30, we will finish out the Advent series.

The Children's Program will be on Sunday, December 10th, with a potluck meal, as staff appreciation, to follow the service.

We are hoping that Cassidy can attend to meet more of the congregation.

Pastor Duane will be out of the parish from Dec. 25 to January 1. He will be out of the pulpit on Dec. 31. The video, "A very Dakotas Christmas", will be shown.

He will be out of the pulpit on Jan. 14 for vacation (out of the parish Jan. 8 to 15).

Workgroup Reports:

Trustees – Bruce Larson presented information regarding the church insurance carrier through Farmers Union Insurance, which is Grinnell Mutual Insurance.

Tyler Van Bruggen is looking for alternative companies that could better handle the big issues that could arise. The replacement cost of the church is listed as 4.7 million dollars.

Financial Workgroup – All apportionments have been paid. The Kiosk resumed giving \$500 per month in October. There was discussion regarding the Sept. and October financial statements. The church is doing about the same as this time last year. There was discussion regarding paying apportionments monthly instead of quarterly. Bruce Larson moved to pay the last quarterly apportionment payment in December, then begin monthly payments in January. 2nd. Approved.

Budget for 2024 – A donor will be paying for the church snow removal this winter. There was discussion regarding buying a maintenance contract for the Security Door System. Bruce Larson moved to purchase a maintenance contract for the Security Door System. 2nd. Approved. Phil Mueller moved to approve the 2024 Budget as a recommendation to the Charge Conference. 2nd. Approved.

Staff Parish – After some discussion, Bev Enger moved to approve the stated job descriptions. 2nd. Approved. The staff parish workgroup voted unanimously to ask Pastor Duane Coates to remain at Epworth UMC for the upcoming year. Pastor Duane is conflicted regarding staying at Epworth. He will be married on July 6th and Cindy's youngest son will not graduate from high school until 2025. If an appropriate position would arise for him in the SE South Dakota conference, he would be very interested. Nothing is expected at this time.

Nominations – The 2023 Nominations Report was viewed. Phil Mueller moved to accept the nominations. 2nd. Approved.

Katy VanDyke moved to add one more person to the SLT. 2nd. Approved. These recommendations will be presented at the Charge Conference.

Pastor Duane ended the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned.

The next SLT meeting will be on Wednesday, December 13, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Randi Watterson, Recorder