

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 8, 2021

Council Members

Susan Ryder, president	Patty Rohde, Secretary	Susan Dickinson, treasurer
Pastor Cover	Tom Blackburn, Vice President	Tom Zimmerman*
Sue Gasswint	Randy Hamme	Karen Hubbard
Rick Keen	Marti Bert	Barb Schell
Nevin Shenck		

*Denotes absent

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM

Approval of Agenda – The agenda is amended to add discussion regarding creation of a building use task force. Motion by Patty Rohde, 2nd by Sue Gasswint to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

Opening prayer – An opening prayer was led by Pastor Cover.

Mission Moment – Pastor opened the discussion with a Bible passage that leads us to focus on hope. Council members then shared messages of hope that we have seen for ourselves in our lives.

Action Items:

- A. 1604 Progress on renting – The contract with the management company has not been signed yet. The house should be ready by mid-March for rental.
- B. Personnel update – There were some changes to the job description and the number of hours is decreased to 20/week. There is discussion about who would pay the bills. Currently Chris Jury does that as a contract employee. The pay is suggested at \$15/hr. If that pay change is made, the other office staff members would need to have their pay adjusted to that rate also. Motion by Nevin Shenck, 2nd by Rick Keen for Council to authorize Pastor Cover to offer up to a maximum of up to \$15/hr. to fill the open Administrative Support position. Motion carried.
- C. Strategic Planning, Synod Resources - Pastor checked with Synod on people available to assist us with strategic planning. She will share this info with Barb Schell who will work with Pastor on contacting the names given by Synod.
- D. Budget Goals- Bob Egley spoke with the insurance agent who suggested cost saving measures including dropping terrorism coverage which used to be required but is no longer required. There were electric savings found. Karen Hubbard has a proposal from a company that may save costs on phone. There are some savings that may be found in copier services. Susan Dickinson will look to switching to a credit card that has rewards that could benefit the church.

- E. Easter Service Plans - There will be a Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday Service at 9:30 AM as well as an Easter Vigil at 7 PM. There will also be a sunrise Service on Easter Sunday at church rather than Kentland. There will be a Maundy Thursday and a Good Friday Service. There will also be a prayer vigil that people can sign up for 20-minute prayer sessions they can do either at home or in the chapel on Good Friday.
- F. Synod assembly reps are Tom Blackburn and Michelle Knight. Motion by Pastor Cover, 2nd by Barb Schell to appoint Tom Blackburn and Michelle Knight to be our Synod Assembly voting members for the 2021 Synod Assembly. Motion carried.
- G. Mission trip scholarships - These scholarships are available to Youth who are going on any mission trip and applications can be addressed to the office.
- H. New Council members – Please bring possible names of candidates to the next Council meeting.
- I. Building use task force – It has been suggested that some ministries in the church have grown and others have been suspended. As a result, it may be a good idea to review space in the building to be sure that we are using spaces in the church optimally. This assessment would also include Kentland. This information, once gathered, can be presented to Council and the Congregation to help with strategic planning and to make decisions on any immediate changes that may be made for better use of space. Jackie Behney has volunteered to head this task force. Pastor Cover also volunteered to serve on the committee. Someone from Property Board would also be a good candidate for the task force. Randy Hamme will look for a volunteer from Property. Motion by Jen Graf, 2nd by Patty Rohde to create a building-use task force to assess recent and changing use of the church and Kentland properties consisting of Jackie Behney, Pastor cover, and a member of Property Board. Motion carried.

Reports

A. President's Report – See Action Items above

B. Secretary's Report

- a. Evote: Motion by Sue Gasswint 2nd by Susan Ryder to approve the February minutes. Motion carried.
- b. Evote: Amended motion to reset the rent on the 1604 property to \$1,100 - \$1,200 per month made by Pastor cover, 2nd by Nevin Shenck. Motion carried.
- c. Minutes from Exec committee meeting were distributed.

C. Vice-president's Report

D. Treasurer's Report – See attached report. We have \$66,000 in giving which is ahead of budget. Motion by Sue Gasswint, 2nd by Tom Blackburn to accept the Treasurers Report. Motion carried.

E. Pastor's Report - Easter Services are listed above

F. Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry Report – See attached report

G. Director of Music Report

H. Committee/Task Force Reports

- a. Kitchen (Audrey Egley/ Marti Bert)
- b. Children, Youth & Family Ministry (Melinda Bechtel/ Sue Gasswint)
- c. Endowment (Linda Lippert/ Barb Schell)
- d. Faith Connection (Julie Flook)
- e. Fellowship and Arts (Hope Pankake/ Tom Zimmerman) –
- f. Finance & Budget (Susan Dickinson)
- g. Personnel (Nevin Shenck) -See action items above
- h. Property (Randy Hamme) – April 13 is the date when oak trees will be trimmed.

Carpet has been chosen for carpet replacement and that work will not interfere with Holy Week activities. The leak in the basement appears to be due to a downspout that Property Board feels they can fix themselves. There are 3 bids for grass mowing that came in. Yards and More came with the lowest bid. Motion by Marti Bert, 2nd by Rick Keen that the contract for mowing be awarded to Yards and More. Motion carried.

- i. Social Ministry (Karen Hubbard)
- j. Stewardship (Brigitte Storey/ Rick Keen)
- k. Worship & Music (Beth Jury)
- l. 1604 Task Force (Terry Snyder) – See action items above
- m. Advice on financial matters (Tracey Alfano-Douty)

Other Business – The directories are being distributed and thanks are extended to Julie Flook for and everyone who helped for their work on the project.

Adjournment – Motion by Jen Graf, 2nd by Randy Hamme to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM