

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES

Wednesday, January 19 at Ely United Methodist Church

**Call To Order:** Chair Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

**Attendees (8):** Lucy Diesslin, Craig Haberman, Don Ingerson, Dan Johnson, Margie & Mark Olson, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson.

**Opening:** Pastor Craig spoke briefly about what Rip Van Winkle's reaction would have been if he'd been asleep 2 years ago and just woke up. All the changes that have happened – in our world & in our church. Outdoor services in the summer, having a weekly electronic newsletter, broadcasting our service with a special camera & Facebook, having meetings with Zoom. He feels our church is doing well as we continue to look at more possible changes. He then opened with prayer.

**Minutes:** The December 15, 2021 Annual Conference and Ad Council minutes, as previously distributed via *Parish News*, were approved. Motion to approve by Lucy Diesslin; second by Mark Olson.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mark Olson presented the December 2021 Treasurer's report and pointed out the very generous receipts of over \$15,000. He also noted that we were under budget for 2021 by \$6,793.57 and had several categories where the actuals were very close to the budget figures. The current account balances are: General Fund \$43,999.15; Memorial Fund \$15,135.44; Building Fund \$7,109.94. Jeanne Tomlinson moved that we accept the Treasurer's reports as submitted, second by Margie Olson. Motion passed. Jay Tomlinson moved that we discontinue tracking *Gift of Giving* funds separately since we will probably not be doing that project again. Second by Mark Olson. The current balance of \$7.81 will be moved to the *Undesignated* portion of the General Fund. Motion passed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Trustees:** Margie Olson reported that they have started working on the basement flooring replacement. They are looking at flooring choices and are considering vinyl planking. Pieces of the current flooring have been sent in for testing to see if they contain asbestos. If not, the new flooring may be able to be placed on top of the current floor. Once an installer looks over our existing floor we will know more.
- **Worship:** Dan Johnson reported that the committee had met the day before and discussed Christmas, Lent and Technology. For Christmas, the tree decorations were discussed. It was decided to purchase gold tinsel and red balls. It was also decided to get taller candles for the Advent wreath. They would also like to get a smaller Advent wreath for the Sunday School to help the children learn more about it. They decided the current Giving Tree needs to be replaced and they'll be looking to get a "skinnier" one so that it takes up less room in the Annex. They also decided to keep the time for the *Hanging of the Greens* to right after church on the Sunday just before Advent which will be November 20 this year. For Lent we will again have Ash Wednesday and the combined Maundy Thursday/Good Friday services. Palm branches will need to be ordered for Palm Sunday and lilies for Easter. The Technology that was discussed was the need for an evaluation of our current sound system and an upgrade or replacement since our on-line viewers cannot hear the choir very well, nor any of the congregation during hymns or sharing times. Pastor Craig brought up the idea of loaning out our extra hymnals that are in the back of the church so that at-home viewers could have more easy access to the music. Although the hymns are posted on Facebook prior to the service, that is not easily available while watching

the service. It was agreed that we could do this as long as we have a sign-up sheet so we know who to approach when we need them returned (such as for our Christmas Eve service).

- **Outreach:** Jay reported the apartment trees were picked up right after the sanctuary decorations were put away. He thanked Margie & Mark for taking care of two of them. He also reported that all the trees are in pretty bad shape and should be replaced. He recommended we just go with one tree in Pioneer as we have done these past two years instead of one for each floor as we had done prior to that.
- **Visioning:** Pastor Craig reported that Rich Floyd has developed a plan for an event on February 7 to allow for a congregation “meet & greet” with each other in smaller groups through Zoom to help people feel more connected. The *I’ll Push You* movie/study event is currently planned for March 27/28 and repeated on April 3/4.
- **UMW:** Lucy Diesslin reported that the February pasty making has been cancelled with April currently still planned. The UMW Friendship Dinner will be a buffet dinner at the GEL sometime in May.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **New Year’s greeting letter to all FISH addresses:** This letter is still a work in progress.
2. **Benevolence Fund:** Pastor Craig reported that there will be an informal arrangement between churches who are providing funds to people in need. He will probably check with Tim Cook when he is approached for funds before proceeding. After much discussion it was moved by Lucy Diesslin to hold a special offering on February 13 for a “Benevolence Fund” and we will use whatever is received to purchase Zup’s gift cards and the other half to purchase gift cards for a local gas station since money for food or gas are the two most common requests. Pastor Craig can then disburse gift cards to folks in need at his discretion. Second to the motion by Margie Olson. Motion passed.
3. **KoWaKan Adventure (ministry of Camp Minnesota):** Pastor Craig reported that he’d spoken with Mark Miller and they are still working out details for what would be involved in serving as hosts for the camp from June through mid-July. Pastor Craig has already had 3 people volunteer: Elton Brown and Vicki & Bob Beech.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Oil Candles for the Altar:** Jay reported that Cathy Aldrich had approached the church with the idea of replacing the current wax candles on the altar with oil ones which would always be the same height. She offered to cover the cost of purchasing the candles. It was felt a little bit more research is needed since we don’t know what the costs would be for oil canister replacements or if the current candle holders are a memorial gift.
2. **Technical Committee:** Pastor Craig reported that the primary focus will be the sound system (discussed above in the Worship Committee).
3. **Fellowship Hall TV replacement:** Jeanne Tomlinson moved that we purchase a replacement. It was undecided if we should get the same size or a smaller one. Jay offered to check out possibilities and come back with pricing and size information at the next Ad Council meeting. Lucy Diesslin seconded the motion. Motion passed.
4. **Children’s Bibles:** After some research to determine which Bible we would distribute, Pastor Craig has decided on the *New King’s James Study Bible*. He’ll order 15 books for children in

our congregation who are readers. They won't arrive until March. He hopes to set up a time in the summer to meet with the children and their parents to introduce the Bible to them.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Mark reported that we had received a Christmas thank you letter from our sponsored Children's International child. It's posted on the corner bulletin board in the Annex.

### **Items of Information**

1. **Next Ad Council meeting:** Since Pastor Craig will be on vacation February 16-23, we will meet instead on Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 7:05 PM (following choir).

The meeting adjourned at 8:30(?) PM with a group recitation of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary