

## **ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 18, 2023 at Ely United Methodist Church**

**Call To Order:** Chair Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

**Attendees (11):** Bonnie Berglund, Lucy Diesslin, Craig Haberman, Don Ingerson, Carol Linneman, Margie & Mark Olson, Sheri Rue, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson and Pam Turnbull.

**Opening:** Pastor Craig some thoughts from *Fresh Expressions*, a book by a pastor who will be the speaker at the Annual Conference. He then opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Minutes:** The April 20, 2023 Ad Council minutes were approved as distributed in the *Parish News*. Motion by Margie Olson, second Carol Linneman.

**Treasurer's Report:** The April 2023 Treasurer's report was presented by Mark Olson. Current balances are \$48,635.41 in the General Fund, \$22,125.74 in the Building Fund and \$11,425.48 in the Memorial Fund. The reports were accepted. Motion by Jeanne Tomlinson; second by Bonnie Berglund.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **Trustees:** Margie Olson reported that
  - The parsonage garbage disposal has been replaced although it was noted that the new disposal may not solve the backup issue. There may be a blockage in a pipe further down.
  - Phil Hegfors donated all the plowing & sanding he did this past winter. This was a value of about \$800.
  - The basement ceiling tiles have been replaced and the sliding door was fixed.
2. **Pastor-Parish Relations:** Sheri Rue reported that the committee will be meeting on Tuesday, May 23. They'll be working on an updated church profile and will review Pastor Craig's vacation plans.
3. **Worship:** Pastor Craig reported that
  - The bulletin "blanks" have been replaced for a heavier stock and slightly darker color to resolve a "reverse side copy bleed" issue.
  - Confirmation Sunday went well. There won't be a confirmation class this next year.
  - We will honor our 3 high school seniors, Logan Loe, Ambrose Richter and Lily Tedrick, this coming Sunday, May 21. Margie Olson has made tied felt quilts for them as gifts from the church. The congregation has received invitations to graduation parties for two of these.
  - The summer ecumenical service at Semer's Park will be on July 16.
4. **Outreach:** Jay Tomlinson reported that he and Pastor Craig had met with the individual who has been giving generously to the Benevolence Fund to discuss possible ideas for use beyond just helping people who come to the church asking for help. The following list was compiled:
  - Occasional needs of/for the congregation
  - Love Offering
  - Refugee Migration Response
  - Food Shelf
  - Outreach Initiatives
  - Children International
  - Soup Kitchens
  - Young Life

- UMCORE (Ukraine Response, US Hurricane Response, Latest International Disaster Response, Latest US Disaster Response)
  - Youth Church Camp (This was added later in the meeting)
5. **Nurture & Membership Care:** Bonnie Berglund pointed out the box on the shelves in the back of the church that has additional Pocket Crosses to replenish the supply in the basket in the lobby.
  6. **Memorial Fund Task Force:** Carol Linneman reported that Memorial Funds had been spent to purchase the confirmands' study Bibles and the books for the Lenten Bible study this spring.. The next meeting will be in August when they will discuss Memorial Sunday, which might again be on All Saints Sunday in November.
  7. **UMW:** Margie Olson reported that the UMW Friendship dinner held on Wednesday, May 17 at the GEL went well with 31 attending. Joan Larson, the guest speaker, gave a nice talk.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Church Directory Project:** Jay Tomlinson has spoken with Eric Sherman about doing the pictures for our directory. Families will also be able to order pictures for themselves if they would like. Jay will work with Eric to set up some dates.
2. **MN UMW Annual Conference:** Jay reported that as our Lay Representative, he will be voting on a number of items which include 4 main resolutions:
  - Supporting a proposal (to be handled at the General Conference) to form four Regional Conferences – Africa, Europe, Phillipines and United States. Each regional conference would have their own Book of Discipline.
  - Supporting a proposal (also to be handled at the General Conference) to remove discriminating verbiage and policies on sexual orientation.
  - A resolution to support the prohibition of assault weapon sales except for the military.
  - A resolution condemning Israeli detention of children.

It was recommended that it be announced in the pulpit that anyone wishing to express their views on any of the items to be voted on should speak with Jay.

3. **Love Offering:** Jay suggested that since the Love Offering was one of the recommendations for using Benevolence Fund monies, perhaps we could add to whatever the May 21 special offering yields. Margie Olson moved that we match whatever the congregation gives. Second by Jeanne Tomlinson. Motion approved.
4. **Midco cable fiber upgrade:** Mark Olson reported that Midco is behind on their fiber upgrade installations so it will be a while before they get to us. He had been asked if we wanted to upgrade to a higher speed. This would increase the cost. Since we aren't having any issues with our current speed we'll keep it as is. Even though our current contract period hasn't expired its 3-year term, Mark will go ahead and initiate a new contract so we can lock in the current price.
5. **Youth Church/Bible Camp Scholarships:** Pastor Craig reported that we do have a number of youth registering for camps so once the participant numbers are finalized we'll divide the allocated \$1250 equally to help cover the costs. It was suggested that we use Benevolence Fund monies to additionally help any family that would find it difficult to fund the balance.
6. **Church cleaning service:** Margie Olson reported that Emma Debeltz is our new cleaner. Margie asked if we could put a container in the furnace room for her to put the garbage bags in when she is done instead of having her leave them in the nursery area. Jay commented that we have some empty large storage containers so we can use one of those.

## **NEW BUSINESS** –

1. **Building Use by Athens film crew:** After our April 20 Ad Council meeting, the film crew returned to see if they could use our basement and kitchen areas for a few hours on May 25 to film a short “comic-relief” scene involving a bingo game in the fellowship area and a poker game in the kitchen. It was decided in advance of this meeting that we will let the film crew know that they need to look for another place. Pastor Craig recommended our congregation complete "Rule of Christ" training this fall. Following a brief discussion around the table we decided to expand this to include a series of presentations on the United Methodist Book of Discipline, a review of our church's building use policies, and how these policies fit in with our congregational-decision making process. Sheri Rue requested this be put on the September meeting agenda, so that the Council can make decisions on the design of this series of presentations, for instance how many sessions to have on each topic, what to cover on each topic, etc.

## **Items of Information**

1. **Next Ad Council meeting:** Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 5:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 6:24 PM with a group recitation of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary