

## **CHURCH COUNCIL – MINUTES**

**Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at Ely United Methodist Church**

*Growing in faith and sharing Christ's love with others.*

**Call To Order:** Chair Sheri Rue called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**Attendees (10):** Pastor Kay Carter, Marge Forsberg, Dan Johnson, Steve Nelson, Mark & Margie Olson, Sheri Rue, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson, Pam Turnbull.

**Opening:** Linda Hane is out of town helping care for her niece. In her absence, Pastor Kay shared her experience in Norway of hiking on a path up a hill between a forest and meadow and seeing all the thousands of daffodils blooming and thinking about who might have planted the original bulbs that then grew and spread to what is there now. That image made her think about what we do as a church in planting seeds of faith.

**Minutes:** The March 19, 2025 Council minutes had been distributed previously. Marge Forsberg moved that we approve the minutes as distributed; second by Jay Tomlinson. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mark Olson presented the March 2025 Treasurer's report. Motion to accept the report by Jeanne Tomlinson; second by Jay Tomlinson. Motion passed. Account balances are \$52,810.53 in the General Fund, \$6811.44 in the Building Fund, \$16985.84 in the Memorial Fund and \$6,966.78 in the Benevolence Fund. We discussed the significant deficit of only \$7801.45 of income vs \$11,032.66 disbursements and how the income wasn't even enough to cover the Total Ministerial Support. The Finance Committee will be meeting shortly and be discussing how to let our congregation know about the need for increased giving. Mark also reported that he had tried to get into our church safe deposit box at Highland Bank and learned we were supposed to have a key. Fortunately, the key was located later.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **Trustees:** There was no official report but Steve Nelson brought up the need for us to do something about increasing security for our church building since so many people know the code for the front and back door locks and we have no idea who knows the code. We had previously voted to change the code but that has not yet happened. In addition to making the code change and keeping a list of who is given the code, we discussed the possibility of security cameras in order to have a record of who enters and leaves in case of a problem. The Trustees will handle this.
2. **Pastor-Parish Relations:** Steve Nelson reported that he and Pastor Kay continue to communicate at least weekly.
3. **Worship:** Dan Johnson reported that the committee met on April 11. Worship services have been going well and several different people have volunteered to be liturgist and/or usher. The bulletin format has changed to legal sized paper which has provided more room for congregational responses and church information. Because of our current printer issues, a new one was purchased that could handle the legal size paper. Easter lilies have been ordered and will be delivered on Saturday morning. The Good Friday service will include the confirmands and the choir. Pastor Kay will be out of town the last week of April and Dan will be doing the message. Sheri Rue offered to help lead the service. Linda Hane and Pastor Kay are working on a "visitor packet" for newcomers. Linda will get addresses from visitors and will deliver the packet to their homes. The packet will have some goodies and an insert describing our church and ways to get involved. They also discussed a "Remembering Your Faith" class for new members and interested members. Pastor Kay

would like to hold this as a 4-week class (once a week) in August to allow for summer attenders, possibly having a potluck in conjunction with it. Their next meeting will be August 8 at 11 AM.

4. **Connections:** Jay Tomlinson reported that we brought in \$170 for the Ely Food Shelf at our potluck on Palm Sunday.
5. **Memorial:** Marge Forsberg reported that their next meeting would be May 6 at 9 AM.
6. **UMW:** Margie Olson reported that UMW will be having their annual Friendship Luncheon at the GEL on May 21. A sign-up sheet will be at the back of the church starting April 27. UMW also voted to add a November pasty sales time as long as help can be arranged to cover the physical tasks that Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson currently handle.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Audio System:** No update yet.

### **NEW BUSINESS** –

1. **Membership Secretary:** Sheri Rue reminded us that we need to officially appoint a Membership Secretary to track church members and prepare the membership figures for the Annual Charge Conference. Margie Olson moved that Pam Turnbull be appointed as our Membership Secretary. Second by Marge Forsberg. Motion passed.
2. **Minnesota North Colleges – Vermilion Campus:** Marge Forsberg reported on some recent administrative restructuring changes impacting our local college. She also reported that the college Food Shelf was being moved to a more secure location and that the students who attend but don't live locally are in need of transportation.
3. **Timberjay Summer Church Directory:** Mark Olson asked for verification of the information for our church that will be listed in the *Timberjay's* annual church directory.
4. **Paid Leave Act:** Mark Olson also reported that he's been trying to complete the required paperwork for our required participation in the Paid Leave Act which goes into effect January 1, 2026 and has run into some snags. It will require a quarterly payment from the church matched by funds taken from the pastor's salary.
5. **Benevolence Fund Request:** The Council approved a \$500 disbursement from the Benevolence Fund to help someone pay for critical home repairs. Motion by Jeanne Tomlinson, second by Pam Turnbull.

### **Correspondence** - None

### **Items of Information**

1. **Next Church Council meeting:** Wednesday, May 21 at 6:00 PM. Jay Tomlinson offered to do the Opening devotion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM with a group recitation of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Tomlinson, Church Council Secretary