

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES

March 18, 2020

Ely United Methodist Church

Call To Order: Dan Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Attendees (8): Dan & Beverly Johnson, Mark & Margie Olson, Craig Haberman, Linda Hane, Donna Rusco, Jay Tomlinson.

Opening: Dan Johnson read from *The Complete Book of Hymns* by William J. Petersen and Ardythe Petersen the hymn and the inspirational experience leading Ruth Caye Jones to write the words and melody to “In Times Like These,” so appropriate to today’s challenges. Pastor Craig read a poem titled “The Peace of Wild Things” by Wendell Berry from his book called *Collected Poems*. He then opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes: In discussion of the February 2020 Ad Council Minutes printed in the March *Fish*, Beverly Johnson pointed out that the Maundy Thursday date reported as April 19 should have been April 9, and Margie Olson said the Memorial Fund books should have been included in the Annual Audit report. Margie Olson made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Beverly Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Mark Olson presented the February 2020 Treasurer’s Report. Receipts & disbursements were \$8,424.60 & \$8,793.55, respectively. Ending balances were: Undesignated Funds \$17,590.28; Building Fund \$4,384.44; Memorial Fund \$10,065.21; Parish Health Ministries \$340; Gift of Giving Project \$7.81. Motion to accept by Beverly Jonson, second by Linda Hane. The motion was approved. Jay Tomlinson pointed out that our ad in the Echo should be reviewed as it was missing some information. Pastor Craig and Jay will review the ad and make appropriate changes. Dan Johnson requested the number of *Upper Room* booklets be increased by at least 5 additional copies.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Board of Trustees:** Margie Olson reported that they have not met since the Ad Council’s last meeting, but that the floor in the basement needs replacement tiles in some places. She also mentioned that the cracks in our parking lot need to be addressed. She will also remind BJ Rusco about fixing the drainage pipe from our church to the main sewage line. Pastor Craig commented that there is a problem with the telephone line at the parsonage and he will contact frontier to get the problem resolved.
- **Finance:** Beverly Johnson pointed out that while we have the utmost trust in all our congregation members, 2 of the 3 recording secretaries should be the only counters of the offering receipts. Should there only be one present on any given Sunday, the Finance Chair should be asked to fill in.
- **Pastor-Parish Relations:** Sheri Rue, acting chair for Jeanne Tomlinson, has been updated with the chair’s responsibilities. No other report.
- **Worship:** Due to the Covid-19 gathering restrictions, church services have been canceled for at least the next two Sundays. Unless there is a change in state and church directives regarding gatherings, no palm branch or lily orders for Palm and Easter Sunday services will be taken.
- **Outreach:** No report.

- **Visioning:** Jay Tomlinson reported for chair Rich Floyd that the Visioning Committee assigned Keith and Sheri Rue along with Pastor Craig to outline steps to encourage congregation members to share their personal spiritual moments either verbally during the worship service or through other methods such as printed in the Sunday bulletin, *The Fish*, posted on the wall like Vine & Branches, or in some other format. Church members are encouraged to submit articles to *The Fish*. Rich assigned “*I find it easy to tell other Christians about my feelings*” as the next statement from the Natural Church Development Survey for the committee to focus on. Discussion led to replacing the word ‘*feelings*’ with ‘*life*.’ The committee confirmed the next *All Church Pot Luck* was scheduled for May 17th. Addressing the question of scheduling a new study group for the fall, Linda Hane presented three possible programs: *Unfailing Love*; *No More Excuses*; and *I’ll Push You*. The committee recognized the on-going Thursday Community Bible Study, *The Early Church from 33 CE to 200 CE*, as a very worthwhile study program leading the committee to being open to additional study programs as the spirit moves them in the future. More research into these possible study programs is required.
- **Education:** No report.
- **Nurture & Membership Care:** No report.
- **Parish Care Person:** Donna Rusco reported prayer shawls were given to Jeanne Tomlinson and Jeri Walburg.
- **Memorial Fund Task Force:** No report.
- **President UMW:** The March UMW meeting has been canceled due to the Covid-19 gatherings restrictions.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Web site information and structure:** The committee Chairs have been asked to review the content pertaining to their committee on the web site and suggest any changes or updates. Pastor Craig’s sermons are now being posted on the web site. The most recent 10 sermons will be available on the web site. Pastor Craig suggested we could have an on-line ability to make offering payments to the church through *tithe.ly* on our website and on smart phones. Mark Olson, Beverly Johnson, Pastor Craig and Jay Tomlinson will investigate how to make it so.
2. **EUMC Facebook site:** Ginny Nelson is the EUMC Facebook administrator. The Ad Council suggested that the Visioning Committee develop a ‘*vision*’ and ‘*mission*’ for the Facebook page.
3. **Church pictorial directory:** Due to the current Covid-19 state and community restrictions, this project has been postponed until 2021.
4. **Status of the August Ecumenical service at Semers Park:** The Ad Council confirmed that the Ely United Methodist Church will not hold a service on Sunday, August 9th and encourage our congregation members to attend the Ecumenical service at Semers Park in conjunction with the multi-church Pot Luck. Pastor Craig will be out of town that Sunday as well.
5. **Status of the sewer line repair:** Covered under the Board of Trustees report above.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Covid-19 preparedness plans:** A three page document from Bishop Bruce R. Ough and Reverend Cindy Gregorson, Director of Connectional Ministries, outlined the recommendations of the Annual Conference to the United Methodist churches in Minnesota. 1) The Conference has asked that all churches suspend in-person worship services through the end of March. 2) Postpone or cancel all

non-essential small group meetings or gatherings in our church during this timeframe. The Ad Council confirmed that there will be no in-person church services or choir practices through the end of March at our church and possibly further into the future. Pastor Craig will maintain office hours during this time. The Thursday Community Bible Study will continue and attendance is a personal choice. The tables and chairs will be sanitized and hand sanitizer will be made available to all who attend. Our church will develop an email directory of all congregation members for the purpose of developing a weekly 'Parish News' update to keep all informed of weekly concerns. This news is intended to be short, concise, in bullet form to insure information is distributed. Those members who do not have email will be on a call list. Offerings can be mailed to the church, dropped off in person or through the mail slot, and we are investigating a form of direct deposit through the web site and an app on smart phones. The decision whether to offer April Pasties will be made during the first week of April when the product needs to be ordered. Pasties is a food service to the community much like going to the grocery store so the decision will depend any on further Covid-19 restrictions.

2. **Donation for the Ely Area Food Shelf (Mar 16-18 is food shelf week):** Margie Olson moved that we donate \$100 to the food shelf, pointing out that the donation will be tripled to \$300 from state aid. Beverly Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Correspondence

1. **Northern Lights:** A letter of thanks was received from the Northern Lights for our donation.

Items of Information

1. **March 2020 Pasty Report:** 608 made; deposits: \$3,682; cost: \$1,213.98. Net Income \$2,468.02.
2. **Ray Gass Memorial Service:** Our church sent a bud vase with daisies, Ray's favorite flower. The congregation will be invited through an article in *The Fish* to send a donation if they wish to the Ray Gass Campers Sponsorship Fund.
3. **Next Meeting:** April 15, 2020 at 7:00 PM (Pending further Covid-19 restrictions)

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM with a unison reciting of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Tomlinson acting Ad Council Secretary for Jeanne Tomlinson