**Lebanon Lutheran Church Council Minutes - Tuesday June 20 @ 6:00 PM** - In person in church lounge

**In Attendance:** President Cheri Crouch, Vice President Wietse Schaafsma, Treasurer Terry Beekman, Financial Secretary Curt Crouch, Al Wheeler, Laura Hollister, Brian Jaekel, Secretary Meg Eaton

Cheri called meeting to order @ 6:04 PM.

Cheri called for the **Agenda Review.**  Agenda accepted as written.

**Opening Devotion**: Al led the opening devotion with selections from the Church Constitution. He explained that Ch 4 Sections 1 & 2 gets to the heart of what we are called to be as a church. For example, we are called to worship God, proclaim God’s gospel of salvation through grace alone, to reach out to all people, to serve in response to human needs, to nurture members in the word of God, to live in the love of Christ and join with other Christians. Al suggested that when we are confused about a Council decision we can turn to these sections of the Constitution he read to help guide us. He ended with a prayer for the work of the Council.

Future devotions: August, Meg. September, Brian. December, Terry

Participants shared **recent signs of God’s grace.**

**Secretary’s Minutes:** Council reviewed the May minutes. Laura moved to accept, Al seconded, the motion passed and minutes were accepted as written.

**Pastor’s Report**: Pastor Ogden was at an LGBTQ+ Parent Discussion he helped organize so Cheri shared his June report. Our new Slovak student, Lea, will be picked up today in GR and will be in church on Sunday. Scout House/Food Pantry building discussion is ongoing, most recent suggestion is a prefab building to house supplies for both programs. Pastor is investigating bids. Pastor is looking for a volunteer to send a card to synod churches we pray for every week. Mike is aware that there are no working speakers in the sanctuary and is working on a plan to fix the situation. Summer programming and office air conditioning are discussed under New or Urgent Business below. See Pastor’s Report for more details.

**Financial Reports:** Curt reported on church finances. At 41.67% expenses are slightly below the target of 42.66% for the end of May. Income, however, is down by $10,475.32 compared to 2022. New expenditures like the office air conditioning will probably need special fundraising. Investments continue to recover.

**New or Urgent Business:**

1. **Re-inventing Summer Programs – from Pastor’s Report**

Vacation Bible School: VBS will replace Daycamp and is limited to 25 kids. The plan is to focus on 5 to 8-year-olds. The dates are July 16 through the 20th. Sample plan: 5 to 6 PM dinner and skit, 6 to 6:30 craft and story, 6:30 to 7, activity. There may be an adult component for adults who want to stay after dinner while the kid program is happening.

Swim Lessons: Pastor has firmed up a plan for swim lessons and Bible story. An instructor has agreed to three sessions with six children in each session, August 7-9 and August 14-16. The charge is $60 per child per session and monies will transfer to the instructor. The Crouches have volunteered their pool. The program will possibly expand to another pool if another instructor is found. Cheri mentioned that Pastor is making sure our church insurance will cover the program.

Smorgasbord: There will possibly be a summer meal, similar to, but not the same as smorgasbord. Possibly early September. This plan is still under discussion.

Back-to-School: Pastor has discussed a back-to-school event with staff at Shoreline elementary and Ealy elementary. Backpacks are used in both schools and there is a need for them. The current suggestion is limiting the program to 100 children from the Whitehall elementary schools since Montague has its own program. Council was concerned about designating backpacks for Whitehall kids only and how that would work out if and when other kids come to us for a backpack. Laura will bring up the question at the June 28 organizing meeting.

1. **Land Contract Update:** Curt updated the Council**.** After the Food Pantry was re-paid for Property and Maintenance loans, the balance of the Land Contract proceeds was $33,370.66. Half was distributed to the Fidelity Endowment Fund and half to the Fidelity Investment Fund.
2. **Constitution Committee:** Al explained that there are two sets of mandated synod changes that need to be made to our 2019 Constitution. Meg and Terry have volunteered to join the committee to help make the updates and make sure the Constitution is in alignment with church practices. Brian moved, Laura seconded and Council voted to authorize the committee to make the changes, to report back to Council in August for approval, and to send the documents to Synod for approval before bringing any final changes to the Annual Meeting in 2024.
3. **Office Air Conditioning:** The rooftop air conditioner coils are leaking and they are out of warranty. The cost for Carmichael’s to repair is $5,060. The cost to repair the ground sanctuary units is under $1000 combined. For approximately $10,000 Carmichael’s told Pastor they can either replace the rooftop unit or install new wall units in the two offices. Meg said Glenn has volunteered the Property Committee to go out for bids. Council is leaning toward replacement and would like more bids. Council was concerned about the unbudgeted cost given budget situation. This project may need special fundraising. Cheri said a vote to approve funds can be taken via email to speed the process.

**Emphases of the Month -**   June – Slovak, July – VBS, August – Backpack: no discussion

 **Unfinished Business:**

1. **Thrivent Action Cards:** Laura and Curt will complete action cards for Backpacks
2. **Outdoor Sign:** Sign is updated with a welcome for the new Slovak intern. Summer programming notices are recommended for July and August.
3. **Finance Committee Decision on Elevator Costs**:  Terry reported that this recommendation was approved by the representative from the Food Pantry. General Fund will cover 100% of all church elevator inspection costs. General Fund will cover all elevator repair costs except lounge elevator will be covered @ 10%. Food Pantry will cover 90% of elevator repair costs for lounge elevator, 0% of any lounge elevator inspection costs.
4. **No Meetings in July**: Members were reminded there is no Council/Finance/Exec in July.

**Adjournment**

At 7:36 PM Cheri asked for a motion to adjourn. Meg moved, Laura seconded, motion passed. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

*Submitted by Meg Eaton*