

Lebanon Lutheran Church Congregation Council
Minutes of April 16, 2024 Meeting
In Person - In Church Lounge

In Attendance: Pastor Doug Ogden, President Wietse Schaafsma, Vice President Sarah Schmaltz, Financial Secretary Curt Crouch, Cheri Crouch, Meg Eaton, Laura Hollister, Brian Jaekel, Secretary Al Wheeler

President Wietse Schaafsma called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Wietse called for the **Agenda Review**. The agenda was accepted as written.

Opening Devotion: Wietse asked for God's blessing on our meeting. He then expressed his feelings of stress that comes sometimes with life's demands and described his attempts to meditate and to connect with God. For guidance, he had referred to *Ten Secrets for Success and Inner Peace* by Wayne Dyer. He especially focused on secret #4 - "Be still and know that I am God"

Future Devotions: May - Cheri, June - Meg

Participants shared **Recent Signs of God's Grace**.

Secretary's Minutes: Council reviewed the March minutes. Cheri moved, Meg seconded, and the minutes were accepted as written.

Pastor's report: Pastor Doug noted that some new ideas for future actions have been added since his last written report and that the finance committee had approved the cost of a quarterly organist. He raised the question of how we might approach stewardship and evangelism efforts, especially in the new housing developments in the White Lake area. Details of progress in planning and fund raising for the construction of the new Food Pantry/Scout House were discussed. (See written report)

Pastor Doug reported that Ernie Stacy had requested membership in the Congregation. Meg moved that Council affirm Ernie's request, seconded by Sarah. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports: Curt continued discussion of the Food Pantry/Scout House. He indicated that the Investment and Endowment funds were more than adequate to provide a loan \$20,000 needed in order to get an early start on construction, but made clear that the Finance Committee had not made that recommendation. Sarah suggested we determine the pros and cons of the building's usage and affects on our Church space. Pastor Doug described ongoing conversations concerning these matters with Scout and Food Pantry people. We may be prepared for a Council vote at the May meeting. If a plan is then adopted by Council, it will also require a special meeting and vote of the Congregation.

Financial reports show that giving for the first quarter is keeping pace with expectations. Budgeted expenses are slightly less (22.66% vs 25%). Good gifts has raised \$1378. May counters are Sarah and Al. On April 28 Curt and Cheri will be on vacation.

Curt conducted a review of the procedures for counting.

New or Urgent Business

Scout House/Food Pantry Fund Raising: (See Pastor's Report and Financial Reports above)

AED Budget: Meg and John Parks have researched and recommend that we purchase a Zoll defibrillator in order to be interchangeable with equipment of the local fire and medical emergency units. The cost would be \$1800 plus the cost of a cabinet. Pastor Doug confirmed that funds were available from Memorials. Training for its use could be by the Fire Department and/or online. Location of the AED should be in the front entrance area. Laura made the motion and Cheri seconded that Meg be authorized to make this purchase. The motion passed unanimously.

Counting Refresher Course: (See Financial Report above)

Emphasis of the Month

April - Good Gifts: Wietse made a second excellent appeal to the Congregation.

May - Synod Benevolence: Frank Hollister has written a blurb and will speak in early May.

June - Slovak: Meg will ask Irene and John Parks.

Unfinished Business

Thrivent Cards/Calendar: Al to get card for AED and/or training.

Fun Event Planning - May: Muskegon Baseball? (No one specified to plan).

Outdoor Sign for April/May: Welcoming returning Snowbirds. Devotions by Cheri and Meg.

Adjournment: At 8:30 Wietse asked, if there was no further business, for a motion to adjourn. Laura moved and Brian seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Al Wheeler