

COUNCIL MINUTES  
MARCH 8, 2021

President of the Council, Jim Snyder, welcomed the council members to the in-person meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:30.

ATTENDEES: Hilary Agnew, Larry Ashley, Mitch Burmeister, Pastor Cook, Paul Darlage, Chip Davidson, Rick Hannon, Matt Hesse, Karen McKinney, Mary Ann Schwarz (Vice Chair, Christian Relations), Dave Walls, Wes Wrucke.

DEVOTION: Pastor read a Bible passage from Jeremiah 7:1-15, which told of Jesus driving the money changers out of the temple courts. In history, the people of Israel would suffer through the destruction three temples. They went astray, lost trust and failed to guard their hearts. We, too, should be concerned that we fail to put our trust in the Lord by becoming complacent. In this Lenten season, we are reminded to observe our own hearts, watch out for our own souls, encourage one another by striving together and reflecting on our sinfulness. We must put our trust in the Lord, not in a building (The Temple) and losing our eternal kingdom.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Hilary reported February was a good month with a surplus of \$33,151. Total giving was \$63,277, which was \$15,023 more than budgeted. School revenue was \$16,961 more than budgeted, due to a large semi-annual tuition payment from Concordia. Expenses were \$16,366 less than budgeted due to limited activities in every category as a result of COVID. Gas and electricity are \$18,000 below what we budgeted year to date because of lower usage and our being on the budget plan. Overall, we have an accumulated surplus of \$15,785. Hilary mentioned that the PPP is being revamped and we are waiting to see if that loan will be forgiven and hoping this will be accomplished before our next budget. On another note, she reported that the salary guidelines for new teachers are looking more positive for us. We are now in mid-range and can be competitive. Wes feels encouraged by this. Jim questioned if Hilary has what she needs from respective departments in support of the upcoming budget preparation. She said that she will send out budget worksheets to each department and plans to schedule a meeting toward the beginning of April.

TERRORISM INSURANCE: Hilary questioned the need for risk insurance in case of terrorism. Larry said that it often doesn't pay off, and he didn't feel we were in a position to be a good candidate for it. After some discussion, Jim moved that we not purchase the insurance. Larry seconded it. The motion unanimously passed.

PARKING LOT LIGHTING: Matt is waiting for a phone call from LG&E to discuss the transfer of the asset of poles and light fixtures. Until then we can't move forward on projects. However, we are looking at the price to purchase a kit to refurbish the lamps and the cost of labor to do so.

OPENING THE CHURCH: The Elders, the Pastor and the Council President and Vice-President have been looking at opening the church consistent with what the science says. The common

cup will soon be offered at Communion for those who are feeling well and desire to partake. Of course, individual cups will still be provided. Some families have been meeting in the fellowship hall with a bring-your-own fast food Lenten dinner. The Elders will hold a church Lenten Dinner before the last Lenten service. There will be an Easter breakfast after the first two services. Every person must decide on their own if attendance at these events is something they feel comfortable doing. No one is forcing anyone to attend. There was discussion about whether we were rushing things and what protocols would be in place for the meals.

**FUNDING FOR THE SCHOOL AND NEW TEACHERS:** Larry Ashley brought to the Council's attention that we could provide more money for school needs by reminding congregants that we could realize more funds if people who had a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) would earmark that for the church. In so doing they would not have to pay taxes on the money if it went directly from the account to the church. After some discussion Larry was directed to draft a letter to the congregation and send it to the Council to review.

**AUCTION:** Rick reported the online auction went very well with more than \$40,000 made for the school. The computer program to run the auction this way was purchased by the school and can be reused. Tracy Hannon did an outstanding job in setting this up and making this a success.

**CLOSING:** The meeting ended with Pastor leading the council in the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be Monday, April 12, 2021.

Members were reminded to attend the Call Meeting Sunday March 14 in the sanctuary after the first service.