

Shepherd of the Valley Council Minutes
November 17, 2020

Present: Sherry Scheider, Rhoda Fox, Phil Smalley, Bob Tukker, Barbara Pearson, Dave Musser, LaVon Downing, Pastor Scott Benolkin, Brian Carpenter, Justin Abel, Julie Johnson, Karen Dolan, Steve Larsen and Pearl Fortman.

Absent: none

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Sherry Scheider. Pastor Scott opened the meeting with devotions and prayer. Bob Tukker made a motion to accept the October minutes, Steve Larsen seconded. The motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor extended a thank you for all the anniversary cards and the generosity of the congregation for the 5th Anniversary of his ordination. His message to everyone was "stay safe" and "hang on" during this difficult time.

Sherry Scheider will be attending via zoom the synod's Thursday night conference with medical personnel regarding the Corona Pandemic.

Old Business:

- A. Search for a church secretary: The committee met and brought forth options for hiring a secretary. They are looking into a Temp agency to find and interview for the position. Bob Black will obtain information and bring back to the committee. They are also looking at the job description and have made several recommendations for the council's approval. Pastor made a motion to modify the job description by adding social media, website maintenance, remove bulk mail and preschool references, remove Christian requirement, cutting hours from 24 to 20 hours/week and increasing salary from \$12.85 per hour to \$15.00 per hour. Phil seconded the motion. After a lengthy discussion it was determined the job description needs to be more specific regarding website maintenance, social media and removal of Christian requirement. Pastor made a motion to table this item until next month, Phil seconded . Motion carried. Pastor made a motion for the position to be for 20 hours/week at \$15.00 per hour. Pearl seconded. Motion carried. Sherry felt it was important to have set hours so people would know when someone was there.
- B. Judi's Retirement: Pastor will be sending out a message to the congregation for cards and money for Judi from anyone who would like to show her appreciation for her 7 years of service. December 13th would be the deadline to get those in. Sherry made her a beautiful wall hanging which will also be given to her at that time. Susie will be writing on the back of it an appropriate sentiment.

New Business:

- A. New Financial program: This is a work in progress, Pastor and Phil will be investigating more options. This was tabled until next month.
- B. Annual meeting: The constitution states the meeting must be held between January 20th and the 31st of the month. Pastor will follow-up on whose term will be expiring. Pastor made a motion to have the meeting January 31st via zoom, Lavon seconded. Motion carried. Reports are to be sent in via e-mail pdf. Discussion will be continued next month.
- C. Preschool signs: The Property Committee discussed taking down the one sign on Harrison due to poor visibility of the sign and making the one on Mulford the permanent sign. Dave has some ideas for the permanent sign. Bob made a motion to remove the sign on Harrison Ave., Rhoda seconded and the motion carried.
- D. Cleaning of the church secretary's office: Kris Tukker and a couple of others have volunteered to clean and straighten up the offices. Rhoda made a motion for the secretary's office to be cleaned and straightened up, Bob seconded. The motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Property: Yard work has been done by the committee. They had above discussion of the preschool signage.

Worship and Music: They are looking at ideas to make the upcoming Advent season special as we will not be gathering as usual.

Finance Committee: Report electronically submitted. Pledges are coming in. We are still a little behind due to recent deaths and financial difficulties of people due to the covid pandemic, but we are still doing okay. The PPP loan of \$30,000 has been totally forgiven. Phil made a motion to tith 10% of the \$30,000 (\$3,000) to the Northern Illinois Synod and to challenge other congregations to do the same. Rhoda seconded. The motion carried.

The Northern Illinois Synod has provided a service of Hope and Lament for the upcoming Sunday.

LaVon made a motion to adjourn, Phil seconded. Pastor closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted:

LaVon Downing