

Shepherd of the Valley Council Minutes
September 22, 2021 va zoom

Present: Pastor Scott Benolkin, Phil Smalley, Karen Dolan, Brian Carpenter, Barb Pearson, Pearl Fortman, Carolyn Ciaccio, Gina Fiorenza, Dave Musser and LaVon Downing.

Absent: Steve Larsen, Julie Johnson, Bob Tukker and Rhoda Fox.

Guest: Pastor Gary Erickson, Synod Director of Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop for Outreach and Stewardship.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Karen Dolan at 7:00 P.M. Pastor made a motion to make an amendment to the agenda to add our guest speaker, trunk or treat, approving Pastor's benefits for next year and Confirmation October 31st. The motion carries for amendment to be added to the agenda. A vote to approve the amended agenda was passed.

Pastor Erickson introduced himself and led the group in devotions and prayer. He asked what concerns we had for our church. What our assets as a church were, and the hopes we have for Shepherd of the Valley for the future. He asked what our Mission Statement was (Sharing God's Love), and what to focus on and hold onto, that the vocation of the church is the same as it is for the individual: Love God with our whole heart, and love our neighbor as ourselves. Some suggestions were to sponsor an add on Facebook welcoming all and promote what we are doing well. Pastor Erickson closed with prayer.

Carolyn made a motion to accept the August minutes as written, Barbara seconded. The motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Covid is still with us and encouraged everyone to be safe and on guard.

Old Business:

Preschool space and supplies, this discussion was tabled until next month.

New Business:

- A. Vision for our church: Pastor Gary Erickson spoke to this at beginning of the meeting and further discussion will be on next month's agenda.
- B. Trunk or Treat: How do we reach our neighbors through God's Love? Dave envisions this to be a congregational event. We need volunteers to provide a trunk and be responsible for their own candy. He is asking for a minimum of 10 trunks, but more would be welcome. You are welcome to wear a costume and to decorate your trunk. He would also like to have a church table with a couple of volunteers with candy and invitations to worship. People could donate candy or money to buy candy. The date for this would be October 30th 5-7 p.m. St. Rita's School, Cherry Valley Elementary and

Lutheran Schools have volunteered to help us get the word out. Dave would also like council members in pairs of 2 to canvas the streets and hand out invitations for the event. Dave also mentioned keeping notes as to what our experience was for this event and share our experiences on Sunday morning. Pastor made a motion to get council and the congregation involved with Trunk or Treat. Karen seconded, the motion carried.

- C. Pastor's Benefits: Phil made a motion to keep Pastor at the Gold level for health benefits, Barb seconded. The motion carried.
- D. Confirmation: Pastor invited Logan Bailey and Ryland Farris to meet with council next month via zoom to speak of their faith and for council to approve their Confirmation on October 31st and to add this to the agenda for next month. Carolyn will be in charge of ordering each of the confirmands a small cake to take home in celebration of their Confirmation.

Committee Reports:

Worship and Music: electronically submitted.

Property Committee: the committee requested \$1300 to finishing off the gutter guards. The money will come from property projects fund and previous rummage sale monies. Phil made a motion to approve the \$1300, Pastor seconded. The motion carried. The roof project is still in process.

Finance: electronically submitted. August was better than any previous August we've had.

LaVon made a motion to adjourn at 9:05 P.M., Pastor seconded. The motion carried. Pastor closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
LaVon Downing