

Salem Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes from August 27, 2020

Present: Pastor Mike Briggs, Paul Tesdahl, Jeff Mitchell, Mark Carlson, Joel Huntley, Tracy Perpich, Peggy Blistain, Terry Tichenor

Absent: Jena Reed

Opening Prayer

Congregation Reports:

- Chuck Lubowitz presented proposed changes on behalf of the Outreach Governing Board. Discussion was held regarding the Outreach Board's proposed changes and desire to make more decisions without Council approval and have more independence.
 - The matter was tabled until next meeting. The Outreach Governing Board is going to send the Council an updated report using the "track changes" feature.
 - The Council also requested specific examples be presented as to when the Council had failed to provide the Outreach Board with the funds or respond quick enough.

Approval of Minutes:

- A motion was made and carried to approve the July, 2020 Council meeting minutes.

Pastor's Report

- Short discussion was held regarding the August report.

Committee Reports

- Treasure Report
 - A motion was made and carried to approve the Treasurer's report.
 - Discussion was held regarding the 2021 budget process.
- IT Committee
 - A motion was made and carried to adopt the IT Policy presented.
- Capital Appeal
 - Discussion was held regarding getting pledge cards out and whether to do it separately or not. The matter was tabled for the September meeting.

Unfinished Business

- Discussion was held regarding the Church Office Hours. A motion was made and carried to re-open the office hours to the public on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00-4:00 starting on Monday, August 31, 2020.
- Motion was made and carried to approve the purchasing of a sanitizing sprayer and sanitizer.
- Short discussion was held regarding Glen Helm staying at 14 hours/week and having Dawn work 35 hours/week.

New Business

- Discussion was held regarding re-opening the Church to allow groups of 10 or less to meet. Several members supported re-opening to small groups as a step forward towards re-opening of the church. Discussion was held regarding the sanitation issues and that the Safety Committee proposals should be followed.
 - A motion was made and carried to allow groups of 10 or less to meet in the Fellowship Hall within the church facility as long as social distancing is maintained and masks are being worn.
- A motion was made and carried to approve the bid and additional labor needed for the LED sign.
- Discussion was held on holding a remote Call Committee meeting. The matter was tabled for the September meeting.
- Discussion was held regarding the status of the litigation and additional funding.
 - A motion was made and carried to move an additional \$5,000 for future legal expenses from line 2910 of the operational reserves to line 2380 in the general fund from the budget.
- An alternate secretary was requested for times when the current secretary either loses service or has to leave meetings. No action was taken.
- Short discussion was held regarding the open choir director position and replacement options. No action was taken.
- Discussion was held regarding Don Hales wanting to obtain a position as a voting member of the Outreach Governing Board. The Council did not approve this request as he is currently an employee.
- Discussion was held regarding the nominating committee and the open positions.
- Discussion was held regarding the re-opening of Salem and allowing in-person worship.
 - Arguments were heard for re-opening for in-person worship which included: people are seeking services from other churches, Salem is the only one not open currently in our area, and we need to re-open before it is too late.
 - Arguments were heard against re-opening and included: the health and safety of the congregation, the CDC numbers – specifically for our area, and a desire to adhere to the Safety Team proposals.
 - Action was not taken at this time. It was agreed upon that the Safety Team would submit to the Council a proposal as to how we would re-open with a goal of allowing in-person worship by September 21, 2020.
 - A special meeting will be held by the Council on September 11, 2020, to review the Safety Team proposals and decide how to proceed.

S.O.S.

Announcements

- The City of Deerwood is holding a meeting regarding the zoning change.

Meeting Adjourned

- The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on September 24, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. via zoom.
- Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Prepared by: Tracy Perpich