

## **Church Council Minutes – 9/18/2025**

Present: Dave White, Cindi Zimmerman, Lindsay Gustafson, Pastor Nat Bothwell, Brenda Neville, Sarah Seigfried, Rose Arrasmith, and Doug Houser

Absent: Ed Fulk

Said the Lord's Prayer

Looked at agenda. Brenda moved to approve, Dave seconded. Motion carried.

### **Strategic Conversations:**

We'll try out the new meeting format today, and decide whether we want to stick with it going forward.

Looked at new Memorial Gift categories. Discussed meanings of different categories. We'd like to add descriptions of categories for future councils. Brenda will work on a short one-page description of each of the categories.

Doug shared a letter to send to the congregation explaining the memorial funds. He'd like to leave this in the council and decide whether to send it out with December mailing.

Next, we looked at the list of priorities we came up with, and voted on the top three priorities. Highlighted below are the top four, since #4 and #6 tied.

1. Replace front doors (8)
2. Kitchen
3. Food Pantry (\*already earmarked)
4. New ceiling fans (3)
5. Repainting current food pantry
6. Fix food pantry deck (3)
7. Screen for sanctuary rather than projector (2)
8. WiFi thermostat (2)
9. Solar panels
10. Sanctuary remodel (including old communion rail)
11. Air conditioner (repair/replace?) (4)
12. Replace east sidewalk (2)

Looking forward: Next month we can talk about how to fill the church, strategy for updating membership data (including policy for archiving inactive members), and Lindsay's council-committee communication system.

Heard back from some of the deck people regarding the food pantry deck, they think we can just replace the railing and not the entire deck.

Doug mentioned that the city of Slater is sending out letters to residents saying they need to repair problem spots, so we may need to move #12 (the sidewalk) to a higher priority.

### **Decision Items:**

Sarah suggested tabling the approval for the new agenda to our meeting next month. That way everyone can experience the entire meeting under the new agenda before deciding.

Brenda moved to approve minutes, Cindi seconded.

We don't have the financial report yet, so we'll need to wait until next month to approve.

Church software update – We need to update software, but our machines are old enough that we really need new machines. Cost = \$3944, includes Windows 11 and QuickBooks online, and to create shared folder. Cost does include hardware as well as software. Brenda moved to accept quote, Lindsay seconded. Motion passed.

### **Actionable Committee Reports:**

Pastor's report: Pastor discussed updating membership rolls and Christmas at Bethlehem.

Properties Committee: Water leak in men's bathroom, Doug and Kelvin caulked and pulled out a bunch of wasp nests. Doug thinks the flat roof is going to need to be replaced. They're going to get a quote from a roofing company. Doug and Kelvin also found someone to replace the sidewalk.

Utilities: Doug called a certified electrician about getting an energy audit. Arc Electric. They do work at the Baptist church. Alliant Energy does not do energy audits.

Audit: Nothing

Insurance: Lindsay ran insurance policy through ChatGPT to get a summary of what we have. Doug will send it out to us tonight.

Food Pantry: No updates

Banqueting Table: They will go out to different groups during Lent to have banqueting table each week. Brenda suggested council may want to host a meal.

Kitchen: They got 3-D drawings from Dave Helland, but would like more information. Once they have more info the committee will meet again.

150<sup>th</sup>: They have met, talked about possible displays and a tentative budget.

Any other business? Does 5:00 still work? We'll meet on the 23<sup>rd</sup> next month since the third Thursday (the 16<sup>th</sup>) is so early.

Rose moved to adjourn, Dave seconded