

**Bethany Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2021**

Present: Patty Fess, Ron Fischer, Joann Kilgus, Jane Nelson, Randy Nelson, Barb Olson and Jim Schwengel all via Zoom.

Jane Nelson opened the meeting at 12:00 pm with a short prayer.

Secretary Report

Patty Fess reported that our member Marlys Regan has died. The member and friends email is up from last year and goes out to over 105 email addresses. She presented the Council Meeting Minutes dated October 22, 2020. Joann moved and Jim Schwengel seconded to approve the minutes, motion passed.

Treasurer Report

Ron Fischer presented the financials provided by Mike McCoy. Between January 1st and February 15th of this year Bethany has a net income of \$27,752 mostly due to gains on our investments. Our expenses at this time have been very low. As of February 15th Bethany had \$4,945 in the checking account with cash reserves of \$50,269. The Bethany Heritage Endowment Fund is at \$303,158.

Randy Nelson moved to accept the treasurer report. Jim Schwengel seconded and the motion passed.

Old Business

Property Update

Randy noted there were 5 trees in the cemetery that were dead and needed to be taken down. Jim moved to spend up to \$2500 for tree removal. Patty seconded and the motion passed.

Randy has a bid to remove the asbestos siding from Bethany church for \$12,500. Jane attempted to get an estimate to paint the wooden siding underneath the asbestos but no contractor is willing to give an estimate without seeing the actual siding.

Jane also reported on where we stand in regards to exploring an auxiliary building. To begin the process we need a survey from a firm such as Baudhuin Surveying and Engineering. This would tell us about the current set backs, what the Village of Ephraim and the State would allow as to where we could place an auxiliary building and a field survey of the grading would be needed to tell us where to place the well. The cost for such a survey from Baudhuin would be \$2,350.

It was decided that Jane and Randy would add the cost estimates to our list of Projects and Possible Ideas for the Boldt Gift and the current council members would individually prioritize the list. We will add to the list the foundation work on the east side of the church and the painting of the current asbestos siding if it is not removed.

Jane said that the engraving has been completed on the cemetery markers. Randy noticed that we may want to do some planting in the turnaround circle of the cemetery. He will look into a tree and some plantings. Barb Olson suggested requesting funds from members for this project.

New Business

Don Just Memorial Service

Laura Just is requesting a memorial service for her husband, the late Rev. Don Just for a date to be determined this summer at Bethany. Laura will be purchasing a burial plot for cremations at the Bethany Cemetery.

Cleaning Person

Mary Niedzwiecki will be the new cleaning person for the parsonage and the church.

Landscaping Around the Church

Randy is seeking bids for the spring clean up, mulching and pruning of the property around the church building. Patty will plant the two urns in the front and Barb Olson will plant the two flower boxes.

Update on Treasurer Position

Ron Fischer has informed Paul Pillat that he will be the accountant for Bethany. We hope to have a start date and transfer of the financials beginning March 1st.

The council unanimously appoints Ron Fischer as the interim treasurer until elections can be held at the next congregational meeting. Patty thanked Ron on behalf of the council for the work he has done on restructuring the treasurer position.

New Council Member

Patty will contact Carol Stoelting regarding her interest to fill the vacant position on Bethany Church Council.

Task List

Ron has created a list of tasks that were done by Mike McCoy who has stepped down from the council. Two tasks remain unassigned. The managing of the website will be done by Jane and Patty. Patty will be the contact person for the ad in the Pulse.

The council decided to expand this list to include all tasks. The council will email their tasks and current responsibilities to Ron in order to have a more complete list of the tasks and who does them.

Bethany Pastors 2021

With the uncertainty of the Covid situation, the Council is unable to decide at this time when Bethany could open for in person services. We would like to commit to Live stream services. Pastors could stay in the parsonage and preside and preach at the services that would be live-streamed but not attended in person until it is safe to do so. Ron will contact Mike to see if the pastors can agree to this arrangement.

The council plans to meet on April 15th at 10:00 am with the sole purpose of deciding if and when Bethany can reopen to in person services. Jim will watch the Covid guidelines from the ELCA and the Wisconsin Council of Churches and present those most current guidelines to the council prior to the April 15th meeting.

Adjournment

As there was no further business we adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Fess, council secretary