

**Bethany Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2021**

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

Guests: Chad Bonis, Tony Tislau

Presentation: Chad Bonis and Tony Tislau from Keller Design Service presented the council with a sight plan for the possible Auxiliary Building that would include two restrooms, a kitchenette and some storage to be located on the Bethany property.

President, Jane Nelson called the meeting to order at 10:45 am. She opened with a short prayer and some Bethany history.

Secretary's Report

Secretary, Patty Fess suggested we should be collecting emails for visitors on the guest registry. She presented the Council Meeting Minutes dated February 22, 2021. Jim Schwengel moved and Joann Kilgus seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer, Ron Fischer presented the financials as of May 31, 2021. Comparing the total current assets from May 31, 2021 at \$256,921 to December 31, 2020 at \$257,644 we are down less than \$1000. The report reflects an increase of \$38,596 from an account value of \$276,480 to \$315,076 as a result of interest earned and gains in the market. \$26,679 of this gain was from the 4th quarter of 2020. One of our greatest expenses for this time period is the cost of \$2,299 to Ryan Sherman for work on our website and Livestream.

Barb Olson moved to accept the Treasurer Report, Jim Schwengel seconded and the motion passed.

Old Business

Cemetery

Jane and Randy will set the markers at the corners of the blocks of grave sites. We need some serious brush removal as we have not removed brush since 2011. Some trees need to be removed including one tree that is on state park property that will be removed by the state.

Don Just Memorial

The memorial service for Don Just will be August 30th unless there is inclement weather. Rain dates are August 31st or September 1st.

New Business

Wedding

There will be a wedding at Bethany on Sunday, August 1st at 11:30 a.m. for Alysha Nelson and Frankie Pudlo. Barb does not need to do flowers that Sunday as the flowers for the wedding will be placed early enough for the 9:30 a.m. service.

Pay Increase for Organist

Patty Fess moved to raise the pay of the Bethany organist to \$125 per Sunday retroactive to Sunday, May 31st, 2021. Randy Nelson seconded and the motion passed.

Constitutional Change

We will announce at the annual meeting that we are planning to change the constitution to eliminate the category of associate members and designate all members as regular members. We plan to make the change in the constitution next year after studying the member designation and reviewing any objections.

Gift for Mike and Marge

We have selected a gift of a Community Vegetable Garden from the ELCA catalogue of available gifts. We will present this gift at the annual meeting in honor of the work and contributions they both have made to Bethany during Mike's 12 years on the council serving as Trustee, President and Treasurer.

EHF History Speaks

The Ephraim Historic Foundation has asked to use Bethany to hold their three Tuesday night programs called History Speaks. The council declined the use because we do not have the volunteers to open and close the church nor the cleaning staff to clean the space after the use.

Bank Account With the Boldt Gift

Currently the Boldt gift is in a money market fund where it receives a very low earning. The council was asked to consider moving the funds to a different type of an account with a higher earning but more risk. The council decided to stay with the money market fund because there is less risk though the earnings are lower.

Bank Account With the Endowment Fund

The council has agreed in the past and still agree that we have more than met our goal of \$500,000 for the Heritage Endowment Fund. The goal will be met combining the \$315,000 in the fund with the proceeds from the sale of the parsonage should Bethany cease to be a worshipping congregation. From this point forward all memorials given to Bethany will be directed to a Memorial Account unless they are designated to the Endowment Fund. Ron, our Treasurer will make this announcement at the annual meeting and we will continue to educate the congregation on this matter.

Currently, all funds from the purchase of gravesites also go into the Endowment Fund. Jim Schwengel suggested that from now on those funds go into the perpetual care account for the cemetery.

Slate of Council Members for 2021

President-Jane Nelson

Treasurer-Ron Fischer

Secretary-Patty Fess

Trustees-Joann Kilgus, Su Marotz, Randy Nelson, Barb Olson, Jim Schwengel

Covid Guidelines For Worship

The following guidelines for worship will be in place beginning Sunday, June 20, 2021.

Masks are not required if you are fully vaccinated.

Please wear a mask if you are not vaccinated.

We will be passing the offering plate.

Communion elements will be distributed as the congregation files down the center aisle. The pastor will bless each individual and the communion elements will be opened once the person has returned to their seat.

Boldt Gift

Patty Fess requested the council take up this agenda item at another time. It was agreed to meet at the church on Thursday, July 8th at 1:00 pm to work on the priorities of the Boldt gift.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Fess, council secretary