

Approved on 3/21/2023

Zion Lutheran Church Minot
Church Council Meeting
February 21, 2023

Prior to official meeting, Rich Jensen introduced a recommendation from the Stewardship Committee regarding the formation of a men's ministry group and their desire to hold an event in April to draw attention to this group and to raise money for a church project. It would be a corn hole tournament held on Sunday, April 16th in the afternoon. Money raised would be given to a planned water feature in the outdoor enhancement work.

John Butgereit call the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. Members present: John Butgereit, Melissa Helgeson, Rich Jensen, Erica Atkinson, John Thompson, Kristi Asendorf, Sherry Broderick, John Gruenberg, Matt Sundahl, and Annlea Eskelson. Also in attendance: Pastor Elaine Sveet and Pastor Natasha Woltzel-Kolles. Introductions were made and all new members were welcomed to the council.

Pastor Natasha offered a devotion and prayer.

An added agenda item is the recommendation from the Stewardship Committee previously introduced by Rich. The motion comes from a committee, so no second is required. After a brief discussion, the motion carried.

The remainder of the agenda was reviewed. A motion was made by Matt Sundahl with a second from John Thompson. Motion carried.

Minutes of the January meeting presented. Motion by Kristi Asendorf to approve them as presented. A second came from Melissa Helgeson. Motion carried.

Pastor's Reports

- Pastor Natasha is attending the ELCA Systems Academy at in-person events and on ZOOM meetings. It meets 4 times a year. She has a wedding coming up in May, has done 2 baptisms plus 1 more this week, has finished continuing education. In addition, has been planning Lenten services and Easter worship, planning music for worship. Jared will participate in the Ash Wednesday service with some artwork.
- Pastor Elaine is anticipating and preparing for her installation service as lead pastor here this coming Sunday, February 26th. She had four funerals plus

another tomorrow (Wednesday). Has done 2 services at Nursing Homes and did a hospice visit. She was also involved in preparing for the annual meeting. She will be gone on Palm Sunday. A continuing education session is planned for May 14th through May 18th in Minneapolis that she will attend. As result, the May Church Council meeting will be moved to May 23rd. Pastor Elaine wanted to make the council aware of an incident at a funeral where the funeral spray on the coffin had an empty beer can in it. She notified the funeral home involved that the flower arrangement was inappropriate for sanctuary worship. We need to look at our policies for weddings and funerals to make sure we have covered and addressed incidents that may arise in the future.

Regarding the pay policy for independent contractors: A census was taken of area churches on how they treat some people as contractors versus employees. A majority of them give their contractors a 1099 form versus a W-2. There are exceptions, including ongoing musicians/piano players. We need to do some additional follow up with the Synod to hear their recommendations. Elaine suggested we pay everyone who previously had been an occasional worker or a new occasional person as a 1099 recipient. After more research is done, we will talk about moving the Nursery to a 1099 versus being paid as an employee. A motion was made by John Thompson and a second by Erica Atkinson to approve this suggestion. Motion carried.

Treasurer report: The report was reviewed. Motion by Matt Sundahl, second by John Thompson to approve the report. Motion carried.

A discussion was held on the security of the doors coming into the building where we can buzz people into the first door but not the second set of doors. We will need to look into possibly replacing doors or doing some adaption to improve the security and protect the staff or others in the building in some hours.

There will be an installment of new church council members and committee members on March 5th. Pastor Elaine has been looking at staffing volunteers of various committees, including a personnel committee, a building and grounds committee, a stewardship committee, a worship and education committee, a visitation committee, and a welcome and evangelism committee.

The health insurance for the employees requires a 30-day waiting period.

The Edward Jones earnings to date have been deposited in the building savings account. Motion by Erica Atkinson, second by John Gruenberg to move the earnings annually. Motion passed.

The Church Mutual insurance policy expires April 1, will be renewed. Pete Fiske will be asked to review the coverage our policy offers.

Girl Scouts requested property use for their meetings. Approved based on their paying the regular fees for usage. Motion by Kristi Asendorf, second by John Gruenberg to approve. Motion passed.

It was discussed that we need to look at our building fees and get any written policy on them up to date.

An application form was submitted for use of trust funds for summer campers at an ELCA camp. Motion to approve and send to the Trust Committee by Matt Sundahl. Second by Sherry Broderick. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM