

## EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** January 8, 2024

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Pastor Carol Christianson, Judy Vollbrecht, Dick Vollbrecht, Verlyn Rebelein, Susie Krohn, Russel Salter, Mary Fairbank, Pat Grams, Diane Fenendael

**CALL TO ORDER:** 4:05 p.m. by Judy Vollbrecht.

**DEVOTIONS:** Pastor Carol read Philippians 4:8-9 written by the Apostle Paul – *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.* She referenced book by Dr. Craig Nessan – Be perfect shalom to everyone we meet. Shalom means complete wholeness. God of peace be with you. Pastor Carol offered prayer.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Couple of updates made to agenda. Motion to approve Agenda by Mary Fairbank; Second, Verlyn Rebelein; Motion approved.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve Council Meeting Minutes for December 4, 2023 by Mary Fairbank; Second, Verlyn Rebelein; Motion approved.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Discussion on what's going on at Emanuel. The update of Emanuel Constitution should be done in alignment with the model constitution of the ELCA which should be used as a base and we insert Emanuel's information. Mission statement needs to be included.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** The 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting is January 28, 2024. If you need Ann to type your report, please have it to her by Friday, January 12, 2024. If you are typing your report yourself, please email it to Ann by Monday, January 15, 2024 at [dan.annkastein@charter.net](mailto:dan.annkastein@charter.net). If you prefer to drop a copy of your typed report, please have it to the church office by Monday, January 15, 2024.

The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee will be meeting each month. Will meet again on January 13, 2024.

The Executive Council met with Pastor Carol on January 6, 2024 to go over and review the Pastoral Contract and Parsonage Use Agreement. Signing by Pastor Carol and the Council Executive Committee to take place soon.

Because of the cost of oil for candles, we tried out battery-operated candles in the back of the church on Christmas Eve to see how they looked. Consideration is being given to using them when the oil is used up.

Tom Rivers is the only person to say yes to being a new Council member. This would give us seven members. Susie Krohn indicated that seven members should be enough. Selection of new council members will be addressed at the annual congregational meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer's Report for December, 2023 was distributed. Susie Krohn reported that the gutters, guards and downspouts are all paid for. No savings were used. Motion to approve Treasurer's report by Dick Vollbrecht; Second, Verlyn Rebelein; Motion approved.

**LEARNING /YOUTH:** Nothing to report.

**MEMORIAL:** Verlyn Rebelein reported banners for church were paid for from Memorial fund. There was 51 cents in interest. Balance is \$3,802.57. Verlyn also reported that income from Endowment funds was well over \$5000.

**PROPERTY:** Dick Vollbrecht (Russel Salter) reported that covers are to be put on thermostats at church.

**STEWARDSHIP/WITNESS/WORSHIP:** No report.

**EVENTS/FUND RAISING:** Mary Fairbank asked when Emanuel brat fry is on the calendar. Dick Vollbrecht said the list comes out this week. Mary Fairbank said the cookie and candy sale was good.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Ring app needs to be installed. Susie Krohn reported that we now have a church credit card. Cloud storage needs to be bought. Credit card can be used for this purchase.

There was discussion regarding missions to support in place of Phillip Knutson. A couple of suggestions were Crossways Camping Ministry, Navajo Lutheran Mission – Arizona. Other suggestions for missions to support can be made. Church council will make a decision in the next month. Subject will be brought up at Congregational Meeting on January 28, 2024 to give Council permission to make the decision on who Emanuel will support.

Council reviewed and adjusted Budget proposal for 2024 to be presented at the annual congregational meeting. Budget proposal can be picked up/emailed to congregation the Sunday before the congregational meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Signing of Pastoral Contract and Parsonage Use Agreement is addressed in the President's Report.

Candidates for Church Council addressed in President's Report.

Discussion regarding church organists schedule to continue.

Christmas decorations are to be taken down on Saturday, January 13 at noon.

Susie Krohn reported that the insurance policy will be dropped as of February 7, 2024 because the church and parsonage were built prior to 1950. Dick Vollbrecht will contact Nolan Insurance. Verlyn Rebelein suggested checking with Church Mutual.

Verlyn Rebelein asked if more time could be given when returning to the pew from communion in order to say a prayer before the service continues. Pastor Carol indicated she would be more mindful of time.

Verlyn Rebelein also asked about ways to introduce hymns that are new to the congregation.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn at 6:15 p.m. by Judy Vollbrecht; Second, Dick Vollbrecht; Motion approved.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Diane Fenendael, Secretary