



**January 15, 2024**

**Members Present:** Pastor Hans Dahl, Pastor Angie Larson, Katie Rentschler, Cheryl Whitchurch, Bruce Luehmann, Mark Christianson, Ann Stehn, Brett Boyum, Mark Stromswold, Kathy Hungness and Jana Berndt

**Absent:** Jeff Rodel

Meeting called to order by Jana Berndt at 6:00 p.m.

**Agenda:** No changes to the agenda

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Hans Dahl lead the council in prayer.

**Mission Sightings:** Jana

- Christmas was remarkable! Over 400 more people than last year. Momentum continues to grow into January.
- Big Hearts: 100 volunteers helped with getting meals out to people in need. We partnered with very generous businesses in the community to receive deep discounts or free donations to this initiative.
- Over and above in contributions in December.
- Backpack Attack 2000 bags of food were packed by volunteers.

**Leadership:** We need to remember to pause and thank God for all the good things that happened in 2023.

One year ago, implemented an annual review for Pastor Hans. By the time it was presented it was mid-year. The council discussed adopting this process to occur mid-year (June-July). Hans reported the process was productive and helped him with goals. Some of the goals that were set were the Make Room appeal/paying off the mortgage, staffing structure and preparing for Hans' sabbatical. Because of Hans' sabbatical taking place in June-August in 2024, the council will complete his review in May.

The Dashboard is up and running. In the annual report it shows pictures of all the things accomplished in 2023. More reports will be coming in February regarding the dashboard because there will be more data to examine.

Capital Appeal: The second round of forums are coming up in late January before the annual meeting. Some of the feedback from the November meetings were questions regarding the use of the kitchen in the basement, kids and making room for them, areas for adults to connect, being good stewards of the building, and being financially responsible for the next generations. The Make Room committee will be at the forums to answer questions. No action will be taken until February after the annual meeting and vote.

Voting at the annual meeting will include approving the budget, electing council members, and the recommendation from the Make Room campaign. The Make Room campaign vote will contain three questions in one vote. After discussion the questions were determined. The question vote will be a paper ballot. Brett made the motion to accept the ballot after legal review as presented. Ann seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Consent Agenda: Jana**

A motion to accept the consent agenda was made by Mark C. and seconded by Mark S. The motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report: Bruce:** December was a great month in worship income. Expenses were down \$24,000 compared to 2023. We had a net income of \$95,000. Total giving to all funds from the congregation were \$1.6 million. Speakers and lights were purchased for the sanctuary using dollars from the dedicated funds, Partner Network, and General Fund.

Preschool has a \$27,000 deficit because their income is only August through December on this budget. This is not unusual for this to occur. This will be a tighter budget year with a small deficit.

**2024 Budget:** The budget is \$1.24 million, which is 6% over the 2023 budget. We are less aggressive this year. A detailed report will be in the annual report. Hans recognized Bruce and Katie for a job well done managing the budget. It was a very tricky year and additional analysis had to be done to keep us on track.

**Building and Reserve.** A \$60,000, 9-month CD will be taken out at a 4.99% interest rate. These funds will be part of the reserve for the mortgage payments. Currently we have \$89,000 in the building fund and we will work to get this to \$120,000 in reserves.

Mark S. made the motion to approve the report as presented. Brett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**2024 Council Members:** Jana will be the only member not returning in 2024 so her position will need to be filled. Hans talked to members of the congregation to see who would be interested in joining the council. If approved by the congregation at the annual meeting, Deb Dittberner agreed to join the council. Officers elections will take place in February.

### **Take Aways:**

- Financial stability
- Annual meeting
- Celebrating all the goals accomplished

**Old Business:** Thank you to Jana for being the Chair of the Council. She did an exceptional job and will be missed!

### **New Business:**

The next meeting will be held on **February 12 at 5 p.m. Staff meeting will be 6-7:30 p.m.**