

Minutes for Church Council Meeting  
7:00 p.m. on December 3, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: Scott Fierle

PRESENT: Pastor Steve Biegner, Scott Fierle, Cheryl Gillen, Nicholas Hazlett, Debbie Howe, Bill Niblock, Sue Renken-Mintzer, David Schunak, Vern Stein, Barb Walter

ABSENT: Janell Andersen

DEVOTIONS: We prayed for the safety of everyone in this busy, icy time.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Barb motioned to approve the minutes, Cheryl seconded, and the council unanimously approved them.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS:

We received a personal thank you note from Synod Secretary Reverend Deborah Turley for our synod donation.

On December 1, many in the congregation could not come to church because of an ice storm. Pastor filmed and posted a video of his sermon before the service, and forty-three people opened email and clicked on the link for Pastor's sermon. The council heard appreciation and positive feedback from many about being able to take part in Sunday morning from home.

We continue to receive communication from M&T bank about the unwanted charges from Pitney Bowes. We will ask Larry Woodward to communicate with them.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Attendance and revenue have been down this fall, and we are hoping December is a recovery month. Bill presented the 2020 budget. We have added a line for Building Renovation as a way for people can donate. There were corrections made to contributions to Pastor's pension fund. Katie's hours are being adjusted to 15 hours/week for December 2019 and the 2020 budget year. Barb moves to accept the budget with the discussed changes. Debbie seconded it. All approved.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

We reviewed the PowerPoint about Main Street Ministries for the December 8 congregational meeting.

We discussed his concept for Fire Church, an opportunity for the people of the firehall to have church in the fire hall community. There will be a baptismal service, a wedding vow renewal service, a memorial service, etc.

Pastor mentioned thinking about future projects such as the demands on the kitchen space.

OLD BUSINESS:

Craig Maefs gave an overview of the safety plan. There now need to be more specific trainings with each responsible group such as ushers.

We are waiting to hear from contractors about the Energy Smart insulation work being done in the office area.

We had a brief update on the wifi project. David is currently working on the Facebook and camera part of the project. The power will be done Monday. Scott Fierle is looking at two possible updates to key fobs.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Wendy Fortune will chair the Nominating Committee in 2020. On the ballot for this committee are Leslie Boynton, Mimi Fierle, Ellen Herdman, and Lois O'Brian. Scott moved to accept this slate. Sue seconded. All of the council voted in favor of this slate.

We shared feedback we have learned from phone calls with congregation members.

At the meeting we expressed concern about whether we were ready for a Missions Fair on January 17; after the meeting we learned that preparations were on schedule and we could proceed.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Barb motioned to adjourn. David seconded.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** December 8, 2019

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:** (second) Tuesday, January 14, 2020

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Regan Howe