

New Song Council Meeting

January 22, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm by Vice President Sue Clark.

Present were Pastor Paul, Sue Clark, Doug Gab, Sue Pollman, Holli Spangler, Sheila Siino, and Melissa Williams. Art Clayton, Todd Enerson, and Jim Long were absent. Brenden Fjelsted joined us as the newly appointed Youth Liaison.

Pastor Paul opened with a prayer and a devotion. Pastor Paul's devotion was from a Devotions for Church Council Meetings used by the Virginia Synod ELCA. The council will use this devotional for 2019. Melissa Williams volunteered to lead the February devotion.

The first item on the agenda was to amend the duties for the Youth Liaison position on the board. It was moved, seconded and passed that this position would be non-voting.

Facilities Report:

1. Parking lot lights – We are waiting for them to be inspected so we can receive the rebate. Once this is complete we will move forward with the lighting of the circle drive and front of the church.
2. Cross lights – It will take approximately \$10,000 to run power lines from the building to the crosses. We should not have the extension cord running to the lights. If we go solar then the cost would be \$600 to \$800 per cross for the panels and then the cost of the LED rope lights. The council requested additional information and if there is money in the budget to cover the cost.
3. Security and Room Use – It was brought to the council's attention that on Sunday (January 20) two doors were left open to the church when everyone had left the building. Doug Gab received a call and had to secure the building. The council reviewed the policy updated from the December meeting: how the policy should be worded for room use by congregation members/groups as opposed to community members, safety and responsibility for locking the building, especially after regular business hours, and the fee charges. It was decided to make a few more updates to the policy. The council moved, seconded and approved using the computer in Jackie's old office to continually show the church calendar. It will be moved to the entrance area. The church calendar will be the record of room use and the new Room Use form must be filled out and approved by Jackie. Once the policy is approved training for committee leads will be held to make sure the building is secured after meetings.

Pastor Paul's report consisted of the following discussion points:

1. We welcomed as new members to New Song Church Patrick and Kathleen Goulding on January 12, 2019.
2. The Stephen Ministers commission spanned the weekend of January 12-13. The following became Stephen Ministers: Terry Reichert, Shannon Anwar, Norreen Peterson and Greg and Maggie Schiffbauer.

- 3 There will be a ritual on February 2-3 for World Cancer Recognition day. The Prayer and Health and Wellness teams will sponsor the event.
4. There have been several people who have expressed interest in developing a memorial garden with a columbarium. A team will be put together to explore this possibility.
5. Our budget Town Hall meeting held on January 19 was a success. The council leaders did a wonderful job in answering questions from the congregation. We are truly thankful to God to be in a stronger position today.
6. The personnel committee has begun its search for the Director of Children, Youth and Families. They will begin a search for a Social Media/Communication consultant in February.

Financial Report:

Sue P. presented the end-of month financial report for December 2018. Our average attendance was up when compared to last year. Our mortgage payments are on track. Our gap to our 2018 budget projections decreased from \$22,252 in November to \$15,268 in December. The staff is the major contributor to this good news. We have a positive cash flow of approximately \$52,000 based on a combination of Academy revenue exceeding budget and payroll expenses being under budget. This money has been designated as reserves to be used for unexpected expenses in 2019.

Old Business:

1. The council discussed the agenda for the New Song Annual meeting to be held on Sunday, January 27. Based on questions asked at the Town Hall meeting, additional slides will be added to address concerns.
2. Council Vice President Sue Clark requested that the council recognize the hiring of Shani Fjelsted as New Songs part-time bookkeeper. This was done.
3. Based on discussion from the Town Hall meeting, Holli S. requested that the Nueva Cancion pass-through money be removed from the revenue and expenses sections of the 2019 budget. This item caused confusion and since the activity has been suspended the budget should reflect this new information. The council moved, seconded and approved this amendment to the budget.
4. The council discussed paying off the donator of the playground equipment. The council approved paying the donor \$12,000 as soon as possible. Sue P. will see if there are available funds to make this payment. The treasurer will make arrangements to pay off the remainder of the \$46,000 donation in the next two years.

New Business:

1. Holli S. announced that the Youth Ministry team will meet on January 23.

2. 2019 Council plans were discussed. Once the new council members are elected, they will be installed on February 9. A retreat will be held on that date to elect the 2019 officers, determine the 2019 goals and conduct our February council meeting.
3. Sheila S. communicated that we are in need of new tablecloths for the church. There will be a count made of how many round and rectangular tablecloths are needed. When the cost is presented the council will vote on the replacement proposal.
4. Pastor Paul and Doug G. discussed placing Led spotlights in the front of the sanctuary. This will improve the lighting for the pastors and musicians. It will also decrease the heat that the existing lights emit. The cost would be approximately \$3,700. The council requested more information on the replacement and where funding might come from.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59pm.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, February 9, at the council retreat.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Williams – Recording Secretary