

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Minutes- December 19, 2017

Present: Ed Adamson, Mary Ellen Campbell, Wayne Einerson, Terry Helmling, Gary Landmann, Gene Obie, Nancy Thiebes, Ruth Swenson, Pastor Doug Vold; Marsha Bones presenting.

Absent: Don Bruland, Sharon Johnson, Kristie Wilson

Called to order by Gary Landmann at 7:05.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Doug opened with a quote, that final form of love is forgiveness.

2018 Budget Update by Marsha Bones: Shared that the estimate of giving was \$364,043 (up 14%) and abundance of giving for year is \$76,766, of which \$49,969 will be used to cover the total 2018 budget of \$414,012. These figures are not including any December offerings. The 2018 budget includes a 5% increase in compensation to staff.

The Finance Committee recommends consideration of designating \$10k of the \$30,740 abundance for staff transitions for 2018; including vacation payout for Carla, retirement celebrations, and expenses related to recruiting for Susan's position. The additional balance might be considered to cover the Chancel furniture balance.

Motion made by Mary Ellen Campbell to approve the proposed 2018 budget, seconded by Ruth Swenson. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: motion made by Ruth Swenson, seconded by Nancy Thiebes to approved Minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Ed Adamson presented reports, highlighting following Nov offerings, collections are at 124% of budgeted needs and expenses at 83% of budget. Endowment line has been added to Accounts Receivable, with \$10K deposit.

Pastor's Report: 1) Pastor shared a request for participation or donation for "Kelly Warming Hut" by Methodist Church. They are organizing to provide daily day center location for 55 homeless individuals from 8 AM to 5 PM, at a cost of \$50k. Discussed that Ascension is not in position to serve as a day center due to building availability and members to provide volunteer service, but based on our fund abundance we could make a monetary donation. Motion made Nancy and seconded by Mary Ellen to donate \$1000 to the cause, Motion carried. 2) Chancel furniture is nearly completed, and working to find a date in late Jan/ early Feb that will work for builder and the congregation. 2 days will be needed for cross installation. 3) Microphone for pulpit will be needed for new furniture, as currently using a C clamp to fix to pulpit. A base, receiver, and goose neck have been ordered for this. 4) Encouraged Council to think about the upcoming retirement of Susan for the end of June 2018. Since Pastor Doug arrived in 2011,

Susan's position has grown intentionally from 18 to 36 hours. Susan desired to keep the hours at 36, versus 40. At this crossroad, it is a time to think if this is the direction desired. Question if congregation demographics should effect the decision, a ½ of giving units are >80 yr old. Should a position for a Elder's worker be considered, with cutting of Youth worker's hours. Initial discussion was that this has been a valued program that Susan has worked diligently to foster, and it is not desired to compromise this. Further discussion will take place in January, when plans and decisions will need to be made.

Old Business: Pastor Doug provided background on the process of hiring Paul Kimberly as office manager. His is scheduled to begin work January 2, 2018, with Carla to provide training through early February.

Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee not comfortable recommending members for Synod Convention, as plans are to change the format for 2018. 5 regional gatherings are planned for April 14th. One of these is planned for Medford, but Pastor Doug has not been notified. A one day formal assembly is then planned in May 19th(?); location not known. The location would dictate need for hotel stay, and travel needs, and this makes it impossible to ask a volunteer to serve when exact plans cannot be made. Council felt that could have Congregation vote to allow Council to designate Synod assembly representative. Motion made by Wayne and seconded by Gary. Motion carried.

Endowment Committee-Gene reports Beth Adams is scheduled to make presentation to congregation February 25, 2018. It will provide information on estate planning and planned giving. The Committee will reconvene for Policy development and procedure for Board member elections.

FFEC-Health Fair scheduled for January 21st directly after service.

Closing: Lord's Prayer

Adjourned 8:45 PM

Submitted by Mary Ellen Campbell