Minutes from Deacon Meeting – UnApproved

August 17, 2021

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Attend** | **Deacon** | **Attend** |
| Anderson, Larry | P | Langford, Wes | P |
| Cooper, Barry | P | Lorenzetti, Jim | P |
| Failing, Debbie | P | Lynn, Marion | P |
| Fry, Diane | P | Stegeman, Rob | A |
| Lancaster, Mary | P | Pastor Cable, Ritchey | P |
|  |  | Vande Polder, Don | P |

* Opening Prayer at 6:20 by Debbie Failing.
* Quorum is established.
* The July minutes are approved
  + Moved by Mary Lancaster and seconded by Larry Anderson.
* **Pastor’s Report:**

Pastor Cable feels the congregation is hurting. With the culmination of COVID weighing heavy on all and the recent loss of integral persons in the church family there appears to be fatigue and stress looming.

COVID relapse is again causing people to stay home. The ‘mask vs non-mask’ tug of war polarizes some in the congregation. Cracks are being exposed thru all of this.

Because of this, Pastor Cable plans to address this in a couple of shepherding sermons to approach the needed healing biblically.

Michael is looking into platforms as well to address further. (Upon the People)

**Thoughts/questions:**

Diane asked if the contact of people during the pandemic has improved? Pastor Cable believes that it has. The under-shepherding has been reaching out in many ways. Mercy calls are being done. It is an ongoing process with additional call-backs needed in some instances. The support for those who need it is there.

Don asked “how do we pull together and not apart on all the issues we are currently facing as a church.”

Pastor Cables responded that the difficulties are exposing weaknesses and we have to find common ground by rallying around the gospel.

The Fall Kickoff Sunday is still scheduled for September 12th. Wednesday night Conversations is still up in the air right now on how it will look because of the COVID restrictions. Michael is working to finalize the plans with the teams responsible.

**“From Embers to a Flame”** Chapter 13

Postponed discussion of this helpful chapter until next month’s meeting.

* **Team Reports**:

1. **Coordinating/Session**: Don VandePolder reported.

**COVID**- Mask wearing is again an issue. It is encouraged to wear masks while inside. Elders/Deacons are asked to set an example and follow this guideline.

Document storage continues to be in discussion. There will be an electronic storage of documents/data, maybe CCB or still others are in review. There will most likely be paper storage also for some documents.

Firearms statute is being reviewed. An individual security officer was attending that caused this review a necessity.

The new website is underway. The church mission statement/vision was found and will be placed on the website in some fashion. Ellie Brown is settling in to her two positions

Nominating committee is being established for 2 current positions. It will be comprised of 2 elders, 2 deacons and 3 at-large from the congregation.

Not a huge time commitment but a very important assignment. These are biblical positions we are addressing. Please prayerfully consider joining the committee to select these individuals

Comment - Mary was unaware that deacons are asked to be on the committee. Don answered that we are being more intentional with these positions, being more formal about the approach.

1. **Finance**:

Larry Anderson said Phil has sent team minutes. We are currently behind around $53,000+ This appears to not be with pledges but with non-pledged expectations. Hoping for an improvement in the giving . A decision on informing the congregation in some manner is under review. The fall stewardship committee is starting up as well.

Comment: Pastor Cable noted the # of folks who have lost jobs during the pandemic has some struggling financially.

1. **Helps**:

Diane reported for the team. We are still in need of help in several areas. The team is looking for ways to garner interest in adding members.

We will add a page with the description of our teams in the next New Members class information packets. We hope to garner some interest there.

Also Diane was excited about the HELPS team being approached to add an article in the Porch magazine. This adds a needed exposure to what we do and what others can contribute to the needs of the church in a meaningful behind-the-scenes way.

1. **Mercy**:
   * Marion and Mary reported:

The team is trying to meet the needs of the members.

There is a Mercy Fund set to help those who have no other means to resolve monetary obligations. Currently they do not have any request.

It was stated that we may need to make the procedure for addressing the Mercy fund more accessible and easier. The Relationship team had some good ideas that will be discussed in the next Mercy committee mtg.

1. **Property**:
   * Barry reported.

Mitigation of water in the lower level classrooms was done and the carpet being disinfected. The issue was found to be with the door and a grading issue.

Dale is still working with the city on the drainage issue.

The bad odor in the storage room to the left of the stage where the metal chairs are kept was thought to be eradicated.

Painting has been done on some of the bird holes on the outside o the buildings.

Problems with the fire alarm not working sporadically is being monitored and addressed with the department. This may result in a new agreement.

Mary commented that we are so very lucky to have such a strong proactive team. We are appreciative of their hard work and feel blessed to have them.

Old Business:

“From Embers to a Flame” Final Chapter 13

New Business:

There are two positions to be filled by deacons on the nominating committee. Prayerfully consider stepping into that role.

WOW Report /Prayer Requests:

* Pastor Cable’s WOW moment this last month took place here in KC with a night time shoot for the movie. The leading man, who is not a Christian, is seeking right now. In the movie he is talking to God in this scene. The female lead, who is a strong Christian, is praying to make it real for him. At that moment a shooting star shot across the sky like an answer of prayers for this young man.
* Mary- There were 2 celebrations of life this past week . The church served them well. She was thankful for those who stepped up big and cared for these families. This was a testament for the church that those who no longer attend our church still feel a part of the family and are not afraid to come back here to lay their loved ones to rest.
* Wes asked for prayers for him returning to school undertaking biblical studies.

Closing Prayer: Barry Cooper

Meeting adjourned at 7:31

Next In Person/Zoom meeting: September 21, 2021 @ 6:15 p.m

.

Moderator - Wes Langford

Clerk - Debbie Failing