Minutes from Deacon Meeting –Approved

March 22, 2021

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Deacon** | **Attend** | **Deacon** | **Attend** |
| Anderson, Larry | P | Langford, Wes | P |
| Cooper, Barry | V | Colle, Josiah | P |
| Failing, Debbie | P | Moberg, Steve | P |
| Fry, Diane | V |  |  |
| Lancaster, Mary | P | Pastor Cable, Ritchey | P |
|  |  | Vande Polder, Don | P |

* Opening Prayer at 6:25 by Larry Anderson.
* Quorum (5) is established.
* Pastor Cable welcomed Josiah to his first in person Deacon meeting. He and his wife have a new baby and he has been busy with that for a time.
* The February minutes are approved with corrections as reported by Steve.
  + Moved by Mary Lancaster and seconded by Wes Langford.

**Pastor’s Report:**

We as a church and individually are going thru a lot of hurt right now. The loss of Susanne was a deep one for many of us. As we reflect on the weight of the losses, it is an opportunity to show love.

**Ministries of Mercy discussion: Chapter 4 – Giving & Keeping, A Balanced Lifestyle**

Mercy and handling the physical items of the church is a role assigned to deacons in Acts. Everyone however is called to Mercy.

Discussion:

This chapter is a blind spot for us.

Culture presses on us for financial stability and saving for retirement.

What are some things that that help instill that?

* + Fear, not having what we need.
  + Pride, not wanting to be a burden to others.
  + Not trusting that God will provide.
  + Planning ahead wisdom

Chapter questions:

1. What is your opinion of the biblical authority for Sider’s “simple life”? Give everything away but the bare necessities.

* Maybe not a biblical authority but the principles of caring for others is.
* We should use our resources to help others

1. Discuss Newton’s 3 pronged view of money management. Is it godly and is it possible?

* Choose a std of bare necessity
  + is very hard to do
* Entertainment funds for the ministry to the poor
  + Could be doable
* Make generosity to the poor a higher priority than saving and retirement.
  + Hardest of the 3 to implement
* Some of these are doable and some on the surface are godly.

1. How ministry of mercy can be seen as “justice living”?
   * Give to feel the burden of the needy ourselves.
   * “simple living” is self denial while “justice living” is executing
2. Examine your views on acquiring wealth. Is realignment needed?

* We are a society of acquisition
* We should think of generosity first
* We are materialist which can find its way into the church as well

1. What rule of thumb can be used to determine how much to give.

* Give enough away until it hurts.

**Team Reports**:

1. **Coordinating/Session**: Don Vande Polder reported.
   * The team is now meeting the 1st Tuesday of each month.
   * We are relaxing the mask usage
   * Temporary pause on the search to replace Jennifer. They have asked Kathy Welch to temporarily stay on in this position for 3-6 months while they continue the research. This is for 25-30 hours/5 days a week until the replacement can be hired.
   * The choir is back in practice and sang for the first time last Sunday.
   * Caleb will be interviewing interns.
   * Don will be accompanying Michael to the next Presbytery meeting.
2. **Finance**:

Larry reported.

Tomorrow night is the 1st meeting of the year.

The current report shows that we are currently behind the budgeted amount. Pledges are down around $8,800.

1. **Helps**:

Diane reported for the team.

* Wednesday night Conversations has started up again. It is going okay. They can use more volunteers.
* The Chair team is hurting for volunteers. Especially with summer approaching. On some Sundays only one person is setting up chairs for second service.

Pastor Cable suggested that we ask the Worship Team for help by email.

* Coffee team is currently in a good place. We have had three people show interest in helping out. This may help with the 5th Sundays and with summer substitutes for vacations.

1. **Mercy**:

Mary reported:

No meeting this month.

* + - They are feeling a gigantic loss of Susanne Drayer.
    - Steve Moberg will join the Mercy Fund Board.
    - Diane Fry and Debbie Failing have offered to help fill in with the Mercy team.

1. **Property**:

Barry reported for the team

* Barry first offered sincere THANK YOUs from Jeff Drayer on behalf of his father Bob and himself for all the love and support people in the church have shown.
* Focusing on 5 main items:
  1. Landscaping around the church. They are reaching out to scouts who may be working on badges or toward their Eagle Scout.
  2. Amos House garage.

John has been working on cleaning the garage and built shelves. The youth have been doing the painting.

The mow team is in need of volunteers.

* 1. Railings

John has been experimenting and testing removing the paint. The team has been getting quotes for this work.

* 1. Restoring/Repairing stain glass windows.

Dale has found a contractor to get quotes from

* 1. Carpet in downstairs classrooms.

Rachael and Sara have proposed putting carpet in some of the classrooms now that the water damage is repaired and is holding.

* HVAC system issues. The cost to fix these was an unexpected expense.
* Sound booth project. There is a meeting to discuss this Sunday at 2:00. Octovio is an electrician to help with this discussion.

Old Business:

Diane said her issues regarding the Memorial Meals/tables has already been resolved.

**Addendum to meeting - Action Item for Pastor Cable** –assignments of 2 new deacons. Steve will be the Deacon Liaison to the Coordinating team.

Josiah will join the Mercy team.

New Business:

1. Discuss Chapter 4 from our book, Ministries of Mercy.
2. Barry introduced an opportunity to be good stewards. A Campaign of Debt Relief for the Gashland EPC building is about to be introduced. It will launch in late April and go thru summer is the plan. They will have pledge cards to distribute. He asked that the deacons: 1) pray about this and how we can do this and 2) engage others it the conversation. There are some offers to match.

WOW Report /Prayer Requests:

* Barry’s WOW was for the beautiful funeral for Susanne. It is hard to lose a friend and especially a parent. Jeff Drayer is searching and Barry sees the Lord at work in him.
* Pastor Cable’s WOW. His father was taken to the hospital ER. He was thankful that he was able to be physically present and able to help. Praise God the condition is manageable.
* Diane Fry’s Prayer is for safe travels to Pennsylvania to visit with her sister who recently had an accident and is recovering. Travel Mercy!
* Barry’s Prayer is for the Debt Campaign to be successful.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Cable

Meeting adjourned at 7:30

Next In Person/Zoom meeting: April 19th, 2021 @ 6:15 p.m

Moderator - Wes Langford

Vice Moderator – Barry Cooper

Clerk - Debbie Failing