Minutes from Deacon Meeting –Approved

July 19, 2022

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

* Quorum (6) is established.
* Opening Prayer at 6:22 pm by Larry Anderson.
* The May minutes were approved.
  + Moved by Larry Anderson and seconded by Josiah Colle.

Old Business:

**Ministries of Mercy discussion: Chapter 7 – Word and Deed: A Balanced Testimony**

Discussion:

* This chapter presents an emphasis that both Word and Deed are necessary.
* It also emphasizes the need for symbiosis … both are critical to ministry, so one should not be favored over the other.
* Peter Wagner’s breakdown of the five views concerning the relationship of evangelism to social concern (A, B, C, D, and E) was helpful.

Most of the discussion centered around the case study presented in the “For Discussion” section at the end of the chapter, and the 10 statements from the members of the board for this church.

1. We should not make assumptions about whether God will or won’t provide additional funds in the future.
2. Don’t assume we are throwing the money away just because we use it to help this family.
3. Making this a loan takes true mercy out of the equation. And the family is already in a tough situation, so having another loan to pay off won’t help much.
4. They may have made bad decisions in the past, but they still have a need right now. We should remember the mercy we’ve received.
5. The Good Samaritan didn’t stop to figure out how the injured man’s own actions may have contributed to his crisis. He just provided the aid the man needed.
6. If there is a need and we have the resources to assist, we should help.
7. This board member is choosing to highlight the unflattering aspects of how a person might get into a difficult situation.
8. The husband was not a believer until three years ago. A divorced unbeliever is still divorced after he becomes a believer.
9. This member is speaking more from fear and intimidation than from mercy.
10. It’s not this member’s money, it is God’s. So he’s not making a decision on how to spend his own money.

Steve asked if it would be appropriate to give the family assistance now, but to then encourage them to get into a financial counseling program like Financial Peace to help them make better decisions in the future. Ritchey said Keller will get into that sort of thing in the rest of the book. But at Gashland our practice is to give assistance with “no questions asked” the first time someone seeks help. But if they return, we tell them we would be able to do much more for them if we can develop a relationship.

**Pastor’s Report:**

* We’re getting ready for Michael’s return from his sabbatical. His first day back is August 19.

**Session**: Don Vande Polder reporting.

* Session is currently focused on ways they can improve the under-shepherding program.

**Team Reports**

1. **Finance**: Larry Anderson reporting.

* Their last meeting was on June 8.
* The June 30th Finance Report, which Phil just sent out, looked good. June general offerings were the highest for that month in the last three years.
* They are pleased with how the Debt Reduction campaign is going, with the outstanding debt now down to $181,000.

1. **Helps**: Diane reporting.

* The team hasn’t met yet this summer.

1. **Mercy**: Wes reporting.

* They didn’t meet in June but are scheduled to meet this Thursday.
* Robin has re-worked the Walk-In Bags.
* The team is focused on making contact with the shut-ins.

1. **Property**: Barry reporting.

* They did not meet in June.
* They are trying to clean up the courtyard, primarily addressing the weeds. Will probably put down some type of mulch to stop them.
* The team is anticipating saving some money on fire safety, as a new vendor (Archway Technologies) is now supporting that.
* The team is working on a closet outside the sanctuary, repairing a leak and adding some more storage space.
* On the Capital Campaign, Barry thanked everyone for their support of the campaign. They are thankful for the way it has been supported by the church.

New Business:

1. Next meeting - Discuss Chapter 8 from our book, Ministries of Mercy: “Getting Started”.

WOW Report /Prayer Requests:

* Wes and Josiah asked for prayers for family members with health issues. Both provided WOWs for the healing work being done by God, while praying for His continued help going forward.
* Closing Prayer: Pastor Cable
* Meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm
* Next In Person/Zoom meeting: August 16, 2022 @ 6:15 p.m

Moderator - Wes Langford

Vice Moderator – Barry Cooper

Acting Clerk - Steve Moberg