Minutes from Deacon Meeting –Approved

August 16, 2022

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

* Quorum (6) is established.
* Opening Prayer at 6:23 pm by Larry Anderson.
* The May minutes were approved.
  + Moved by Barry Cooper and seconded by Debbie Failing.

New Business:

Don Vande Polder was tasked with asking for 2 deacons to be selected to join the Nominating Team and for each to recruit a non-office holding individual as an at-large member of the Nominating Team.

These Deacons are **Larry Anderson** and **Barry Cooper**. Thanks to these two.

Don will give this information to Ellie by Friday 8/19/22.

The at-large members should be given to Ellie by Wednesday 8/24/22

Old Business:

**Ministries of Mercy discussion: Chapter 8 – Getting Started**

Discussion lead by Wes Langford:

* This chapter presents an emphasis that every family should develop its own ministry of mercy.
* It also emphasizes four basic channels of mercy: family, church, community and Christian ministry, with the first three being called the “circle of concern”.

The 6 questions at the end of the chapter focused our attention on the circle of concern, what they are and how to navigate them. The discussion regarding Stop, Look and Listen covered the bulk of our discussion along with being an “Encourager”.

1. We as individuals sometime lead with a “Bunker Mentality”. We may be busy in our own life and may not stop to see the needs in our community, church or even our family.
2. We should practice being an “active” listener. Sometimes we formulate our response while the person is still explaining their situation and we may miss the importance of their issues.
3. We must be approachable, show in our day to day that we have a caring heart. Some of us hold back reaching out to others because of fear the person will reject the help.
4. We may try to encourage the individual, but do so by offering your own solution. Basically what you would do if it were you. This may result in exhortation not encouragement for the person we are trying to help, clouding our attempt to actually encourage them in their current situation.

The conclusion of the discussion was that all of us can work on our own mercy circle and together we can establish cohesive ministries for all to participate in for the glory of God.

**Pastor’s Report:**

* Postponed until next meeting.

**Session**: Don Vande Polder reporting.

* The awesome highlight of the recent youth trip was 6 profession of faith, with 3 being baptized recently.
* They continue the work with the Under-Shepherd program.

**Team Reports**

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

* The recent Finance Report, which Phil just sent out, looked good. The last 3 months have shown the current giving as >= last years giving.
* They are pleased with how the Debt Reduction campaign is going, with the outstanding debt now down to $107,000+.
* Team members met with representative of Church Asset Management (insurance broker) to discuss renewal terms in an attempt to make changes that will reduce our cost to near the same as last year.

1. **Helps**: Debbie reporting for Diane.

* The team has met and each section is currently reporting to be in a fairly good place.

1. **Mercy**: Wes and Mary reporting.

* They expressed thanks for several individuals on the team:

-- Robin and the work she has been doing.

-- Izzy in her work of sending cards that she makes herself to those with birthdays, illnesses and special occasions.

-- Connie Sommer and her crew who do the funeral meals

All of these are a blessing to the team and the church.

* Mary stated they had not been taxed with a lot recently in regards to the Mercy Fund.

1. **Property**: Barry reporting.

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. We should actually be DEBT-FREE of the mortgage by August of 2023. Praise God.

* They are continuing their work on the courtyard.
* The work on the stain glass windows has been completed
* Their work on the sound booth in the sanctuary has been completed
* The team is working on a closet outside the sanctuary, repairing a leak and adding some more storage space.

Barry raised the question of who approves the acceptance of a memorial gift request. Don Vande Polder will review and get back with the answer and on how to proceed.

New Business:

1. Next meeting - Discuss Chapter 9 from our book, Ministries of Mercy: “Preparing the Church”.

WOW Report /Prayer Requests:

* Prayers were raised for Wes’s grandmother who is currently in hospice. Prayers also for his dad and his siblings as they take care of her in this season of life.
* Barry said that his friend Dillon has recommitted his life to Christ and is back in the church family. Praise the Lord for that.
* Also Barry offered up prayers for Jeff Drayer. He feels the Lord is working in his heart and the hope is for him to take the next steps.
* Prayers offered for safe travels for Don and Lyn Vande Polder as they go on their awesome trip thru Europe.
* Prayers as well for Larry and Jeannie and Laura for safe travels to take care of their grandchildren.
* Mary asked for extra prayers for Pastor Ritchie for stamina and protection for him and his family for the heaviness of the last few weeks and for the pressures of upcoming weeks.
* Closing Prayer: Barry Cooper
* Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm
* Next In Person/Zoom meeting: September 20, 2022 @ 6:15 p.m

Moderator - Wes Langford

Vice Moderator – Barry Cooper

Clerk - Debbie Failing