Minutes from Deacon Meeting –UnApproved

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 | P |
| Fry, Diane | P |  |  |
| Lancaster, Mary | P | Pastor Cable, Ritchey | P |
|  |  | Vande Polder, Don | P |

* Quorum (6) is established.
* Opening Prayer at 6:18 pm by Steve Moberg.
* The August minutes were approved.
	+ Moved by Barry Cooper and seconded by Steve Moberg.

New Business:

 We welcomed Steve Phelan to the meeting as a new deacon to be presented.

Old Business: None

**Ministries of Mercy discussion: Chapter 9 – Preparing the Church**

* This chapter focuses on motivating the whole church to the ministry of mercy. It is a practical chapter with specific ideas to consider on how to prepare the church for this mission.

The 3 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. ***What can be done to stimulate mercy in your life and in the congregation?***

Adopt the idea “If you see a need meet the need”,whether it is done by an individual or a team.

1. ***What would be your goals for a survey?***

First access what the passion of the congregation is.

Also a survey of what abilities, gifts and talents the people of the congregation have.

What services are already available in the community to utilize.

1. ***Can you identify people who could begin these tasks?***

We here at Gashland have an established Mercy Team. A huge portion of their focus has recently been on shut-ins. Because they do not offer money it limits the help to the outside right now. They do memorial meals, send cards and do compassion meals. They are a backup for others, like a net. We may need to reassess the focus now.

A survey would help to discern the needs of those asking for help. We do currently have a service bank available, but it may need to be updated.

There are many social agencies in our area. Turning Point, Hillcrest, Reshape to name a few.

The conclusion of the discussion was that all of us can work to establish cohesive ministries for all to participate in to aid in caring for God’s people and the community around us.

A first step is being taken on October 1st to help out in our community where we can with the talents we have.

**Pastor’s Report:**

* Michael is back from his sabbatical. When you come back from a sabbatical you bring back things you found important and how it will influence the church thru him. For Michael prayer was key for him.
* Pastor Cable was thankful for the time to attend each of the openings of his new movie.
* Regarding installing deacons, the EPC states if the church has deacons it can handle the installation in their manner. We have an open position which the session can appoint a replacement.
* For next year, we will be saying goodbye to Mary and Wes with gratitude for their service. Larry Anderson will be staying on. We will be putting forth to the congregation Steve Phelan and 2 other names to be selected in the process.

**Coodinating**: Don Vande Polder reporting.

Currently nothing pressing.

**Team Reports**

1. **Finance**: Larry Anderson reporting.
* The recent Finance Report, which Phil just sent out, has the team concerned about the $60,000+ behind as this point in the year. However, the team still thinks we will be in the black by year end.
* They are pleased with how the Debt Reduction campaign is going.
1. **Helps**: Diane reporting.
* The team did not meet in September. We have been asked to set up tables for the upcoming picnic.
1. **Mercy**: Wes and Mary reporting.

There were 3 memorial meals prepared this past month.

The church did a great job caring for the families. They felt well cared for.

It was brought to the attention of the team that the deacons had not been getting the minutes from their meetings and they will try to remedy that.

1. **Property**: Barry reporting.
* They are continuing their work on the courtyard. A recent quote was $9,500 to finish.
* The water infiltration issues in the Sunday school rooms is ongoing. They are evaluating the grade and installing a sump pump. The mold test in the Red SS rooms was negative.
* Parking lot is redone
* Railings are still an issue of discussion. They need to be repaired somehow.
* Flager Road issue is still ongoing.
* Fixing the steep incline at the front door off the parking lot is in discussion on ways to address it.

New Business:

1. Next meeting - Discuss Chapter 10 from our book, Ministries of Mercy: “Mobilizing the Church”.

WOW Report /Prayer Requests:

* Prayers were raised for Jennie Phelan’s daughter, Kayla. She is suffering with OCD and is at a low point in her life.
* Wes raised a WOW for his expanding family. They are having a baby in April.
* Praises that Josiah and his family’s health is improving.
* Pastor Cable raised a WOW for a blogger in Conroe who connected with a homeless shelter and provided tickets for 20 people to attend the movie on the 29th.
* WOW from a young man who said his mom is listening online to the Sunday services
* Closing Prayer: Barry Cooper
* Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm
* Next In Person/Zoom meeting: October 18, 2022 @ 6:15 p.m

Moderator - Wes Langford

Vice Moderator – Barry Cooper

Clerk - Debbie Failing