

Minutes from Deacon Meeting –UnApproved
November 15, 2022

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

V is Virtual/Zoom

- Quorum (6) is established.
- Opening Prayer at 6:20 pm by Larry Anderson.
- The October minutes were approved.
 - Moved by Larry Anderson and seconded by Steve Moberg.

New Business:

- **Ministries of Mercy discussion: Chapter 11 - Expanding Your Vision.**
 - Due to the absence of several members, it was decided to postpone the discussion of this chapter until the December meeting.

Old Business:

- Combined Elders/Deacons meeting.
 - Discussion that we would like to resume the joint meetings with the Session which were put on hold during Covid.
 - Don said he believes the EPC has a requirement, or possibly just a recommendation, that Elders and Deacons meet jointly on a regular schedule.
 - Don felt the Session should initiate an invitation for the meeting, so he will take this back to the next Session meeting.

Pastor's Report:

- No report since Pastor Ritchey was unable to attend the meeting.

Coodinating:

- Don reported they have been discussing some staff issues, as well as the budget for personnel.

- They are also working on revising the Sunday morning policy regarding the times for opening the doors so that we can be more welcoming of visitors.

Team Reports

- a. **Finance:** Larry Anderson reporting.
 - They met last Wednesday (11/9).
 - As of the end of October, expenses exceed income by about \$60,000.
 - Offering income is up year-to-date, as compared to last year.
 - Stewardship reports pledges are running a little behind last year.
 - The team is working on a couple of letters to thank the congregation for their support of the “Debt Free in '23” campaign.

- b. **Helps:** Mary reporting.
 - They are working on preparations for the December events — services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (since Christmas falls on a Sunday this year).

- c. **Mercy:** Wes and Mary reporting.
 - Wes and Mary spoke to the “Getting to Know Gashland” class, and got a volunteer to help out with compassion meals.
 - They are making plans to conduct a survey — but this time they want to focus on what services people need, as opposed to what gifts people can offer.
 - They would like to get more video screens up around the church, and scroll helpful information for members and visitors on them. There was discussion about who to get involved to accomplish this. There was also discussion about how such a project could be paid for. One thought was that, if contributions to the Debt Free campaign exceed what is needed to pay off the mortgage, the Session might use some of that money for this purpose.

- d. **Property:** Barry reporting.
 - “Rescue the Rail” was a great success, with 48 people helping out. Mark Blakley headed this up. There are still a couple spots to finish off.
 - The Flaglor Road flood control project continues to progress. At this point, the city has moved everything off of our property, so we should not need to be heavily involved, although we may need to grant them an easement for some of the drainage.
 - The team’s 2023 budget was discussed.
 - The church’s Kubota lawnmower has suffered some significant damage and is in the process of being fixed. However, it appears the warranty may cover a large portion of the costs.
 - New landscaping has been installed by the front door.

- As a follow-up to last month's discussion regarding cleaning issues around the church, Barry reported that some new processes have been put in place which will hopefully result in improvements. One issue has been with groups showing up for meetings/events without having gotten on the church calendar. This makes it difficult for the cleaning people to know when they can get in and do their work.

New Business:

1. Next meeting - Discuss Chapter 11 from our book, Ministries of Mercy: "Expanding Your Vision".

Action Items:

- Don to talk with the Session about reinstating the joint meetings between elders and deacons.

W.O.W Report /Prayer Requests:

- Don asked for continued prayer for Bill Eilers, following the passing of his wife Karen.
- Wes requested prayers for Laryn, as she has been having quite a bit of illness during her pregnancy. Also for Wes' 4-year-old stepson, Joaquim, for his exposure to the Christian life, since he doesn't receive that when he's staying with his father.

Closing Prayer: Don

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm

Next In-person/Zoom meeting: December 20, 2022 @6:15 pm

Moderator — Wes Langford

Vice Moderator — Barry Cooper

Acting Clerk — Steve Moberg