BETHLEHEM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

02/09/2021

ATTENDANCE: At Church—Sue Cottrill, Alan Miller and Pastor Joel

 On zoom Bryon Freeman, Darlene Laubenstein, Rebecca Stewart, Eunice Cobb, Rich

 Vanderburgh, Jeremy Van Wey, Ellen Pederson, Penny Humphrey

OPENING DEVOTION AND PRAYER: Pastor continued with the book Life Together by Bonhoeffer. The lesson was about the Ministry of Listening. We show love for our brethren by listening to them. The one who cannot listen to his brother will soon not listen to God. Listen with ears of God that we can speak the word of God

Pastor followed with a passage from Proverbs about wisdom.

JANUARY MINUTES; Jeremy made the motion to accept the January minutes as written. Darlene seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Eunice reviewed the financials. Her report was approved.

REPORTS:

PASTOR: Report Attached

ELDERS: Jeremy reported Covid numbers are down in the county. Some minor changes have been made to help with the safety of the congregation. Pastor will not be greeting at the front door to keep people from bunching up. He will be available back by his office for anyone needing to speak with him.

The Elders have decided to hold off on changing the billboard west of town for the present.

Someone mentioned the sign on the front lawn by the street is in need of a refresh. It was suggested the Trustees speak with Roy Schache before proceeding with any work as he was involved with the grandfathering of the present sign.

Darlene inquired about the plan for the Ash Wednesday service which is usually large.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE FACILITATOR: Report Attached

STEWARDSHIP: No report

EDUCATION/YOUTH ACTIVITIES; There has been discussion via email about possibly starting Sunday School for the smaller children.

Also discussion about VBS. With the theme Rainforest Explorers, it could possibly be held outside. There would be a need for a larger canopy. Bryon mentioned that the scouts had one they might be able to use if the scouts did not have it in use.

EVANGELISM: NO MEETING

FELLOWSHIP: The committee will meet one week earlier than usual to put together goody bags for Valentine’s Day.

MISSIONS: REPORT ATTACHED. The drive through collection through crop walk has been postponed from 02/13/2021 to 02/27/2021 because of the cold.

We now have 7 persons receiving the CD’s of the service.

TRUSTEES: Bryon reported that a lot of work has been happening in the garden to prepare for the next gardening season. A children’s garden is being created and fenced. Wood chips and soil will be coming soon.

Water heater burst had to be replaced. Freezer in the kitchen was repaired.

The internet speed has increased to 200 mg. A replacement for Drop Box is up and running. It provides much more storage space and there was a one-time cost of $980.00. Each council member will have their own account and will be required to change their password once a year.

Bonnie will be working on replacing flooring in the restrooms.

There has been a request for a camera on the west side of the church. There was damage last year to some of the plantings etc… A camera would cost approximately $200.00

A couple more lights were put up on the outside of the church. Several complaints about how dark the outside area is.

LONG RANGE PLANNING; NO MEETING. May look into having an offsite retreat to discuss who we are and where we want to go.

MUSIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Report attached.

OLD BUSINESS:

Synod Convention Vote to Delay: There has been no communication from the Congregation about an opinion so the Council will vote. Alan motioned to support the referendum that the Synod would add 1 year to the schedule for conventions. Byron seconded. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS;

Pastor discussed the Community Servant Event. We are to do an event between 04/16-25/2021. There were no ideas from the Council and Pastor suggested a distribution day with items we received from the Jeremiah 29:11 warehouse. Possibly connecting with Monica Fox to see if they would like to partner with us if they have items that need to be moved.

Bryon suggested we do the event on 04/17/2021 allowing time on the backside to do the event in case of rain on our first date.

CALENDARS:

Board chairs please check your dates and let Cindy know if changes need to be made.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be 03/09/2021 at 7 p.m.

CLOSING PRAYER: Rebecca lead the group in the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Cottrill