

UCC COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2023

Pastor Gretchen opened the meeting with prayer.

Members present: Pastor Gretchen, Lonna Augustadt, Chris Lennon, Camille Grothier, Autum Eisenbraun, Dave Augustadt, Carly Retterath and Pamela Clark Stein.

The minutes of the December 22 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Camille Grothier, seconded by Dave Augustadt, to accept the minutes. The motion carried, minutes were approved.

Financial Report: The financial report is complete and in the annual meeting report. Lesa will be updating the financial pledges.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Gretchen reminded us the annual meeting will be this Sunday, January 29 following the church service. There are a lot of exciting things happening with the confirmands, the special quilt made by the Threads of Love, and a new addition, The Giving Plate. The church has a large deficit and we need to work together to be in a better place financially. Our giving is down and we need to encourage members to increase their giving. Some ideas for increasing our deficit are fundraising are to open our facility to outside groups such as PEO, book study groups, etc.; renting space in the church. A publicity/marketing plan should be put in place to advertise these opportunities.

As part of the evaluation process, Carly asked how we think we are functioning as a church. There are many committee meetings during the evenings which take all of Pastor Gretchen's time and asked how we can relieve her of having to come to all the meetings. A suggestion would be for the committees to review their agendas with her and ask if she has additions she would recommend and invite her to the meeting if she felt it necessary, but this would be a way to free her up a bit. A suggestion made by Camille would be to revitalize the Called to Care Team to do congregational visits. She is willing to do the training for anyone who would be interested in making a commitment to participate. She will put it on the Deacon's agenda for next month. Another idea that should be addressed is that of general maintenance of the church. We should have a check list of things that need repair or replacing and have people volunteer to do this at least once a week or several times per month. A maintenance list and guide can be put together and posted in the Narthax.

Vision/Goal Setting: Pastor Gretchen and Carly discussed possible grant and fund raising opportunities for the church. (1) The Northern Plains Mission and Outreach Grant will help us with the Block Party, advertising and to expand game night. (2) Gaming Funds we can apply for which will help with our Christian Ed budget. (3) Vital worship Grant which requires a committee to assist in writing this grant and is the largest of the grants at \$17,000.00. (4) Faith and Nurture Scholarship which will help send delegates to meetings and students to an annual meeting in Washington, DC.

Partnerships: We are looking at CATCH (Communities Acting Together For Change and Hope) or Ministry on the Margins as a possible good fit to partner with for our church. Bill Patrie will be joining us at our February meeting to give us more information on these two groups.

Committee Reports:

Trustees-Chris reported they have a full slate of members

Deacons-one member is going off the committee. She sends out cards to the congregation who are ill or to say thank you and will continue doing this. The cost for a booth at Dakota Pride this year is \$100.00 and there is no money available in the Deacons budget for this at the present time. Planning is underway for the Lenten soup suppers.

Christian Education- An Easter egg hunt will be held right after our Easter Service. There will be no Sunday school that day. There are several vacancies on the Christian Ed Committee.

Music: There was no meeting this month.

Stewardship and Mission: Pam will be going off the committee and Kyle Eisenbraun will be joining the committee. There are still two vacancies and she has been reaching out to members of the congregation. The quilt the Threads of Love has been working on will be revealed at the annual meeting and it was decided the church will keep the quilt to hang in the church rather than raffle it off. There will be a naming contest of the quilt which will run for a month and our church youth will determine the best name. A special gift will be given to the winner. The committee has established the traveling "Giving Plate". There is a special verse on the plate and it comes with a plate carrier and has a journal that accompanies the plate. Each month the plate will be passed along to a different congregation member. A fundraiser paint party has been scheduled for March. There will be a sign up sheet for the congregation to participate in working with a local artist to paint a picture. Pam thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve on Stewardship and Missions and is grateful to gotten to know so many members of the congregation better.

Mayflower Circle: Camille reported they will be assisting with the Lenten Soup Suppers.

One word: Fun, excited, interesting, new, hopeful, nice, and an unidentifiable word from David Augustadt.

The next meeting will be held February 28 at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lonna Augustadt, Clerk