

Church Council Minutes, January 10th, 2016

Members Present: Pastor Beth, Jeff Gilbertson, Donita Korpela, Dave Eller, Jody Eller, Brent Speldrich, Jason Marsh, Caleb Anderson

Opening Prayer led by Pr. Beth Pottratz

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve by Brent, Second by Dave. Agenda carries

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from December 13th Meeting were presented. Motion to approve by Dave, Second by Jeff. Motion carried

Treasurers Report: Written financial report distributed and reviewed. Proposed Budget 2017 included that will be available for congregation on Sunday to review prior to the annual meeting. 2016 final budget came in with a deficit of \$2249.03. Financial report to be accepted as presented. Motion by Jeff, Second by Brent, Motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

- a) Christmas services were good/great.
- b) Thank you from Pr. Beth for granting vacation this last week.
- c) Two books are being reviewed on the topic of Stewardship that Pr. Beth will look at prior to recommending for council.
- d) Jan 21st and 22nd will be an educational speaker for reformation kickoff on either date if anyone is interested in attending.
- e) Pr. Beth is now involved with a Sister Synod in Honduras events

Old Business:

- a) Budget: Motion to approve the proposed budget for 2017 by Donita, Second by Dave, Motion Carried.
- b) Annual Meeting:
 - a. Reports from various groups should be communicated for a brief five minute summary. Pr. Beth has emailed the groups contact individuals and will remind them once again for presenting their material at the annual meeting. Audit committee need to connect regarding the audit prior to the annual meeting. (Angie, Brooke and Mindy)
 - b. Nominations: Jason's term is ending. Zach, Donita, Jeff and Brent are up for re-election.

New Business:

- a) EPIC Request: Educational Partners in Covenant (EPIC) Program is a program that would benefit any congregational member who attends one of the 26 ELCA participating colleges. There is no cost to the church. The student is responsible for promoting/fundraising for the program. Any money raised is divided by the number of the students who enroll. This is a way to encourage congregations to support and encourage students in their education. Motion to participate in the EPIC program on the condition that solicitations are done privately. Second by Jeff, motion carried.
- b) Giving in 2017: Discussion was held regarding the MPR story on Decreases of giving to churches. Discussion on "How Salem makes a difference to me" and have people tell their story. Online giving options are available and is a positive. Link this to the website. Promote and link Simply Giving options. Make sure we let others know how we are making a difference here at Salem not only to our congregation but others as well. To assign a task team
- c) Polka Event in the Hall: There is a Polka Event that is scheduled in Salem Mahtowa Hall on March 17th. Other ideas for this event may include providing a meal to try to increase attendance. Goal is to increase the number of events in this next year.

Preliminary Agenda Items for next meeting:

- a) Hall Signage
- b) Establish the regular meeting Day for 2017

Adjourn: at 2055pm Motion to adjourn by Jeff, Second by Dave, Motion Carried.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 14th at 6:30.