

## Board Of Trustees Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Scott at 6:00.

Members in attendance: Bob Scott, Pastor Jeff Tally, Pastor Ffej Stephenson, Mike Platz, Edd Johnson, Doug Johnson, Larry Larson, Vanessa Gonzales, John Aston, and Linda Casteel

Guests in attendance: Doug Tapking, Pam Scott, and Cleone Larson

A quorum was determined

Pastor Jeff Tally opened us in prayer and presented a devotional on spiritual gifts. Pastor Jeff indicated he has located a Spiritual gifts survey online and will be passing out copies of this to those in attendance on Sunday and providing a link to the survey for those who are not in attendance on Sunday.

The minutes for the December 10, 2024 were presented and approved unanimously.

### **Business Updates/Trustee Reports**

**HR Report:** Mel had recommended a 6% increase for the church staff medical insurance coverage. Our previous plan was proposing an increase of 89%. At the budget meeting the congregation approved a 45% increase. Thus, we had budgeted \$104,000 for this coverage. A new medical plan was found. This plan has a lower increase for the church. The church will pay \$76,000 for this year's coverage. Thus, there is \$28,000 which may be used to help church employees help cover out-of-pocket expenses. They will have higher deductible rates based on the new plan. Suggested the Review Committee (Doug Johnson, Tom Krause, and Kim Russell) act as the Compensation Committee and be the oversight source for help in looking at how the \$28,000 may be used to assist the church employees cover some of their out-of-pocket expenses.

**Pastor Report:** Pastor Jeff reported the following numbers for the 2024 Food Drive: 3,900 families served which equates to 116,323 individuals! 723 total volunteers. He indicated a Spanish speaking gentleman would like to shadow the Prayer Servant praying with the families to help with those needing prayers in Spanish during an upcoming Food Drive. Pastor Jeff talked about discipling others. Asked us to consider "Who are we discipling?"—3/4 people. He would like the Board members to individually speak at all 3 services on a Sunday, focusing on our responsibilities and addressing where we are, where we are going, what we need now, and what we need going forward. Mike Platz volunteered to do this on January 26<sup>th</sup>. We talked about the need for more greeters both outside and inside the church doors to welcome people and greet visitors/unfamiliar faces. Also, need help with those coming late to find a seat at appropriate times. Pam Scott suggested we may want to have a "Welcome Book" at the "Welcome Table". Pastor is considering the idea of having a "Secret Shoppers" check on how the congregation is doing in welcoming new people. Suggested we may want to hold off on this a bit, until the congregation has been encouraged to look for and welcome new people more regularly. One of our members has expressed dismay that his wife was not visited by anyone from the congregation when she was recovering from surgery. John asked about the need for Ffej to have rides when visiting members,

hospitals, etc, in ministering to others. He indicated he is willing to help with this. Past Jeff also indicated Ffej may need assisting ministers to help with some things during services (I.e., lifting the cover off the communion table). Edd asked Pastor Jeff if there is any way the church which uses our facility can be encouraged to maintain better control of the children who come to our church during their church service. Pastor said he would talk with them.

Missions and Ministry Report: Missions did not approve sending the LCMC the \$1000 recommended by the Board, as they would like more information from the LCMC. Dennis Dickerson will be looking into this. There have been no recent requests for money from the Christmas Stocking Fund.

At Large Report: Edd indicated there is a past Board President willing to help with Stewardship work in the church. Edd agreed to do the congregational talk from a Board member in February.

Marketing Report: Vanessa reported she will be posting pictures taken during Ffej's Ordination and Service and Dinner. She is checking into the cost of apps which would send text notifications of church events to members rather than emails, as people tend to open texts more readily than emails. Pastor Jeff says he will be checking into the price of translator headsets for the church.

Secretary Report: I will be out of town this weekend. Pastor Jeff reminded me to send Kathy Edwards a copy of the December Meeting Notes.

Financial Report: Overall, December was a very good month as it usually is. This puts us in a good financial position starting 2025.

Total Offerings were \$94,100

Total Income was \$107,100

Total Expenses were \$68,000

Net Income for the month was \$39,000

With the extra giving the last 2 months, this brings us back to essentially breakeven for the year !

Our unallocated cash balance ended the year at \$245,000 which is up \$100,000 from the low on Sep 30th!

Facilities Report: John reports the fan has been replaced in the restroom. There is a towel dispenser missing and a replacement has been ordered. There is a broken window in MH741 as a result of not opening when someone tried to open it from the inside. It needs to be replaced ASAP. This is being addressed. The source of the lighting which is not working is being investigated by John. Not sure if the break in the line is from the outside in when work was done outside or not. Hopefully, yes, as this would be an easier fix. Stained glass lighting on the east side of the sanctuary is not functioning appropriately. We are starting again in addressing the flooring for the kitchen and ladies' restroom. Pastor Jeff asked about the bells in the bell tower, as they are no longer working. Both he and Rick Hanzlik looked into this. The question was posed if we could get a list of congregational members' professions to help the church in meeting some needs.

Legal Report: Bob reports that he and Pam are waiting for an update on MH 731 from Chris McCandless. 741 is occupied now. Kevin, the MH Project Director for our programs, is planning on coming to our Board Meetings 1 time per quarter.

At this time there was no Old Business or New Business.

The next Board meeting will be held on 2-18-25 (As opposed to 2-11-25 due to some schedule conflicts.

Meeting was dismissed at 7:55 and Vanessa closed us in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Casteel

Secretary