

Regular Spring Meeting of the Congregation
March 30, 20205

Board Members Present: Bob Scott, Mike Platz, Larry Larsen, Edd Johnson, Pastor Jeff Tally, Pastor Ffej Stephenson, Vanessa Gonzalez, John Ashton and Linda Casteel

Excused: Doug Johnson

Meeting was opened by President Bob Scott at 1:00uo and a quorum was determined. Pastor Jeff Tally led us in a devotional and prayer.

Doug Tapking moved and Kim Russell 2nd that the previous Voters Meeting Minutes be approved as written. Passed unanimously.

There was no unfinished business at this time.

Remarks by the President of the Board of Trustees: Bob state that more people are needed to volunteer here at the church for all activities and committees. This comment was supported by Pastor Jeff and the Call Committee. It was also echoed throughout the meeting! We need to be encouraging members to return to regular worship at church and to be involved in the activities and various groups and boards within our church.

Facilities Report: John Ashton thanked the handful of people who have gone above and beyond the call to help with needs around the church. He specifically recognized Bob and Pam Scott, Eric Wollesen at this time. The Church Sign and Cross lost power. It was discovered that the relay box was completely exposed, thus presenting a safety hazard. It is securely covered now. Also, the power line supplying them with power was only buried an inch or 2 underground. A trench was put in and now this is up to code and both the sign and Cross are now lit again. The Bell Tower has an amplifier which is/may be failing. We may be able to place an amplifier in our equipment closet and not exposed to the elements. This would cost approximately \$7000. Pastor Jeff reported our neighbors are asking what has happened to the bells and would like them turned on/up. They will be playing on Easter, but possibly with a hum or distortion.

At Large Report: Edd Johnson indicated that giving has increased since the Stewardship Program was initiated but we are still a bit short. We have 5 million in assets with a \$78,000 budget to run our assets and cover staff salaries and insurance. People need to be aware of what is going on and needed by the church. More member involvement needed! Bring members back to active attendance and involvement.

Legal Report: Please report any unsafe issues to Bob Scott or the Board of Trustees. The next Board meeting will be April 8, 2025.

Marketing Report: Vanessa Gonzalez reported there will be Easter banners. She is hoping to get business cards which say Welcome Home for people attending church. She is looking into ways of encouraging an attitude of volunteering ("Put me in, Coach). We should others welcoming people who attend services on a regular basis.

The sign in front will list Easter Service times. Other signs for Easter will also be up. We need more people to volunteer to be ushers and greeters. We need people inside showing visitors

where to go for service, Sunday School. We should be seeking personal contact information for our visitors and loving people like we want to be loved.

Vanessa is looking into Streaming our services—The more points of contact our church has available the better able we are to reach out to and teach others.

Ministry and Missions Report: A report of the distribution of Ministry and Missions funds was included in the reports handed out to the voters present. Larry indicated that a total of \$13,950 was invested in Ministries. He stated that money for missions is received from 10% of the Sunday offerings of our church body. A full list of the Mission Committee Members was also available.

Secretary Report: Nothing to report at this time.

Pastoral Office Reports: **Pastor Jeff Tally** stated he is going to be dedicating more time to serve. He is hoping to help other churches which will help our church grow as well. He stated that Prayer 3:16, a time of prayer in the middle of the day, has been a perfect pause in the middle of the day. It has helped confirm our need to focus on a culture of invitation and evangelism. He is adding Prayer 12:29 during the season of Lent which has also helped him focus on the Holy Spirit. He feels our church prayers for unity are being answered. He also indicates Good Shepherd is becoming an even more Christ focused, loving, welcoming place for Christ followers seeking a church as well as those seekers looking to encounter Jesus. Pastor Jeff thanked all the volunteers throughout this past year for all they did and the ways in which they participated in church activities. He indicated we are the “hands and feet moving for Jesus!”

Pastor Jeff also recognized Joylyn Dickerson for helping in the transition to leadership of Shamber Brown as the Youth and Family Ministry Minister. He also thanked Pastor Ffej for all he has been doing recently. He thanked both past and present Board Members. He acknowledges a need to emphasize growth as a congregation. We should be focusing on invitation and evangelism. Also, should focus on discipleship, conversions and unity in the church. Spiritual connection helps us grow our church. He acknowledges that all of our services have grown in the Holy Spirit and in depth.

Pastor Ffej Stephenson thanked the congregation for calling and ordaining him as an associate pastor. His heart is full of gratitude. He is very thankful for all of the assistance he receives during communication. Pastor Ffej is excited to see the results of Shamber’s ministry with our children, students and families. He feels privileged to work alongside her. Pastor Ffej indicates he is dedicating much of his time to member care, evangelism, community service and outreach and church communication. He stated that in terms of the Church’s Food Bank participation we have served over 180 families on average and average over 38 volunteers at each distribution. He received a comment from someone going through that our volunteers here are different. Pastor Ffej says the difference is Jesus, our Lord. In terms of member care, Pastor Ffej indicated that if we haven’t seen someone in awhile, not to assume the church knows what is going on. Also emphasized visitor care is aided through the connect cards. He is trying to reach out to visitors no later than Tuesdays.

Special Reports:

- A. Call Committee:** Doug Tapking reported we need more volunteers and more workers. We need to get more people under age 50 to be more actively involved. John Ashton volunteered to fill in temporarily as facilitators trustee, but would like to be replaced. We need to teach and encourage the younger generations to come, work, learn and to be involved. Challenge everybody to get plugged in and to serve!
- B. Family Ministry Report:** Shamber was home sick. Her report indicates she is going through the Gospel Project with the Sunday School Program. She is going through the 10 Commandments with the youth as well as focusing on tough topics teens face (Darkroom Faith). She also provided a list of upcoming events, goals and ideas for 2025.
- C. Worship Ministry:** The focus of service is first and foremost to worship God in Spirit and in Truth, giving Him our “first fruits”. A list of their past accomplishments and plans was provided to the voters.
- D. Office Staff:**
- **Kathy Edwards (Office Manager):** Our largest need is that of a new custodian and skilled and unskilled volunteers are always needed to help our custodian! We have a recent vacancy for our paid custodian (cleaning, basic maintenance, and basic grounds care).
 - **Rick Johnson (Office/Technology Assistant):** Always looking for more volunteers to help with “Live-Streaming” our worship services every Sunday.
 - **Kim Russell (Events Coordinator):** Stated the goal is to bring God’s people together in fellowship to form strong unions across ages and services so we may go out more boldly into the world and make disciples. A list of events, # of volunteers and # of attendees for events from April 2024-March 2025 was provided the voters.
 - **Donna Kay Lpisey (Women Of The Word):** Provided a list of their activities, the purpose for the funds raised, and the resulting amounts donated. A total of \$10,663.23 was donated to various causes.

New Business: There was no new business at this time.

Treasurer’s Report: Our current income vs. expenses indicates a -\$6,566 However, the EOY 2024 giving was very strong and has positioned us to be able to cover the budgeted deficit for 2025. If the strong giving continues, it will allow us to not draw down on our surplus. Currently, we have not debt. We have a large total in Dedicated funds (\$371,886) to invest in our church and to bless others. We also have an unallocated cash balance (\$233,949) which can be used for emergencies or to cover ongoing deficits. The balance in the Spirit of Titus Endowment Account is \$55,177.65. The Board of Trustees had previously authorized to allocate these funds as deemed necessary.

Jeremy Gonzalea moved and Doug Tapking 2nd to dismiss the meeting. Unanimous vote to dismiss the meeting at 2:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Casteel
Secretary

