

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Moorhead, MN
Council Minutes
January 17, 2017

Present: Dan Bentley, Cathi Chial, Becky Cusey, Kathe Eldred, Nate Heinrich, Grant Invie, Pete Kim, and DeAnn Smith

Absent: Traci Goble and Connie Jarrett

Staff: Pr. Loren Mellum

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. Loren led devotion and prayer.
2. **Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed; Cathi Chial made a motion to approve. Grant Invie seconded. **Motion passed.**
3. **Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was reviewed. Nate Heinrich made a motion to approve the report. Grant Invie seconded. **Motion passed.**
4. **Secretary's Report:** The secretary's report was reviewed. Cathi Chial made a motion to approve. Grant Invie seconded. **Motion passed.**
5. **Team Reports:**
 - a. **Social Justice:** Their Advent Good Gifts project raised \$602. They will make a request to the Endowment Fund for \$500 to be given to Mind Shift Program during Giving Hearts Day. F-M Sheltering for the Homeless completed its final year. Other arrangements are being made for 2017 and beyond for sheltering during the winter months.
6. **Pastor's Report:**
 - a. Plans are being made to have a Palm Sunday Cantata this year.
 - b. New computers were purchased and are in the process of being installed for Loren, Melissa, and Sandy. The money was given by the Endowment Fund.
7. **New Business:**
 - a. The Nominees for Church Council positions are as follows: Clint Fallgatter, Richard Rix, and Todd Sax. Thank you to Traci Goble, Nate Heinrich, Becky Cusey, and Grant Invie for their time and service to the church council.
 - b. Nominations for Endowment Fund positions are: Brian Pickering and Brent Zuehlsdorff.
 - c. Nominations for 2017 Synod Assembly representatives are: Hazel Jones, Vicki Harrison, Les Harrison, and Norma Swanson. Alternates: Becky Cusey and Deb Hovde.
 - d. Nominations for Churches United Representatives are: Jeanne Rodriguez and Peggy Goodman
 - e. Nominations for 2017 Eventide Representatives are: Duane & Dianne Gilbertson

- f. Nominations for Church Council Positions for 2017 are:
 - President: Cathi Chial
 - Vice President: Kathe Eldred
 - Secretary: Connie Jarrett
 - Treasurer: DeAnn Smith
- g. Nominating Committee:
 - Deb Watne
 - Abbey Zuehlsdorff
 - Brian Pickering
 - Outgoing members of Church Council
- h. Monroe Crossing will perform at Our Savior's on Thursday, March 9, 2017, 7:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary. Social Justice is hosting the event.
- i. Wedding Policy at Our Savior's: A proposed wedding policy was reviewed. It is important to note that the ELCA leaves such decisions to be discerned in each respective congregation. After consideration of synod resources, consultation with other area Lutheran (ELCA) congregations, discussion and prayer the council moved to consider the motion below. The Soul Script (vision, mission, and values) approved by the congregation was used as a point of reference; "Our Savior's is a vibrant, Spirit led community that welcomes all ages and invites people from all walks of life to follow Jesus". The proposed wedding policy statement is:

In light of the fact that same-gender marriage is legal in all 50 states, consistent with our understanding of the policy recommended by the ELCA's 2009 Social Statement on human sexuality, and understanding the fact that we, as Our Savior's Lutheran Church members, may not be of one mind on the matter, but are one in Christ and centered in grace, Our Savior's Lutheran Church supports granting our pastors the freedom to follow their bound consciences and pastoral discretion in responding to requests to perform same-gender marriage and to offer pastoral ministry either off-site or at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Becky Cusey made a motion to approve. Nate Heinrich seconded. **Motion passed.**

Discussion on the wording of the policy was held. Nate Heinrich made a motion to amend the approved policy statement by removing "and pastoral discretion". Pete Kim seconded. **Motion passed.** The amended wedding policy is as follows:

In light of the fact that same-gender marriage is legal in all 50 states, consistent with our understanding of the policy recommended by the ELCA's 2009 Social Statement on human sexuality, and understanding the fact that we, as Our Savior's Lutheran Church members, may not be of one mind on the matter, but are one in Christ and centered in grace, Our Savior's Lutheran Church supports granting our pastors the freedom to follow their bound consciences ~~and pastoral discretion~~ in responding to requests to perform same-gender marriage and to offer pastoral ministry either off-site or at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Nate Heinrich requested a roll call vote on approval of the wedding policy. Grant Invie seconded. The roll call was made as follows: Grant Invie – yes; Nate Heinrich – yes; DeAnn Smith – yes; Pete Kim – yes; Becky Cusey - yes; Dan Bentley – yes; Cathi Chial – yes; Kathe

Eldred – yes. Two members, Connie Jarrett and Traci Goble were absent. Both responded by email vote on Wednesday, January 18, with “Yes” votes. The **Motion passed** as amended and passed unanimously.

- j. Cathi Chial shared her ideas about creating a parish nursing program at Our Savior’s. Cathi will gather information and report at a later date.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Grant Invie and seconded by Nate Heinrich.

Next meeting is February 21, 2017, 7:00 p.m.