

Minutes from October 25, 2021 COS Church Council Meeting

Members Present: Rick Burnett, Sue Byer, Scott Bosecker, Carol Jensen-Linton, Paster Fritz, Pastor Miriam, Mark Bunker, Eric Jakobowski, Robbi Martin, Mike Oliver, Lisa Manthey

Members Absent: Brad Harris

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by President Rick Burnett. Rick made two quick points prior to jumping into the agenda. First, a thank you to the Council for their quick response to the need to approve alcohol (beer) being serviced at our Palmetto property for the Oktoberfest event. Second, a warning (so to speak) that the year-end is closing in on us and there are many things still left to be accomplished (to be discussed in more detail later in the meeting).

Robbi then gave an emotional devotional that summarized her three (3) years on Council coming to an end and took the time to discuss how much the friendships and support that she and Shirley have received over this time since joining COS has meant to them. She called out a number of individuals and thanked them for their support and guidance that she has experienced over this timeframe. Thanks to Robbi for all that she has contributed to COS and the Church Council over these past 3 years. She will be missed as a member of Council going forward into 2022.

Pastor Fritz then gave his monthly report highlighting a number of items, a) Oktoberfest being a smashing success, b) Luanne Harms being very effective leading the music and Contemporary worship experience after the departure of Sandra, c) new families joining COS and baptisms that have taken place over the past month, d) attending a fund-raiser for our friends at Two Sparrow Village, e) attending and leading the ordination of Marty Ringer at St. Marks Lutheran Church in Atlanta and finally f) the work that this year's Stewardship Committee is working on.

Pastor Miriam followed Fritz's report with her summary of events that she was involved with via a pictorial/slide show of these events that included many of the events that Pastor Fritz talked about but with a real focus on all the events that the kids of COS were involved with through the ministries lead by Melissa, Ingrid and Barb.

Kevin Hawkins, our leader on the Stewardship Committee this year, gave an update on how this year's campaign is proceeding. Following up on his challenge to Council at our September meeting he was excited to report that a member of Council had stepped forward with a challenge gift to the congregation that if we received 140 pledge cards during the "Abundant Waters" Stewardship Campaign, they would increase their gift to COS during 2022 by \$4,000. He reported that on behalf of himself, Pastor Fritz and Andrea Fischer (members of the committee) they were looking forward to the November 7, 14 and 21 Stewardship Sunday's.

Mark Bunker than provided his monthly financial report which in summary still showed us way behind in "giving", fortunately offset by a very responsible expenditure amount for the month. The detailed report is included as an attachment to these minutes.

Rick then reported on the important upcoming dates between now and the end of the year, going into January of 2022. These included dates for a) the nomination committee to convene and select potential new Council members for 2022, b) ministry reports for inclusion in the 2021 Annual Report, c) suggested date for the Annual Congregational Meeting and d) potential congregational survey dates. Miriam stated that December 11 & 12 have been set for the Moravian Love Feast as well.

Rick then asked a question of the Council, "Are we going to do an Annual Survey as we have done in past years"? In response to this question a small focus group was established to meet and discuss the potential answers to this question. Scott, Eric, Mike and Rick (others welcome) decided they would get together in the next week or 2 to discuss this and would report back to Council with their recommendations at the November Council meeting.

Rick then asked each member of Council to get together with their COS Staff counterparts over the next month(s) to help work on their ministries annual reports to be eventually included in the 2021 COS Annual Report that by our Constitution needs to be provided to the congregation at least 10 days prior to the 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting.

Moving into the "administrative" items for this meeting:

- Minutes from the September 25 Council meeting were unanimously approved following a motion to approve by Scott and a second by Eric.
- A reminder going forward that the open season for the insurance that we offer some members of our staff is annually the month of September.
- COS now has on file Limited Liability forms.
- Council has been discussing Document Management and Record Retention Policies and Procedures as this was pointed out as being lacking during our most recent audit. We have identified recommended policies in these areas as published by the ELCA that we will use as our starting point. Rick stated that he is going to push this effort into 2022 as a high priority for next year's Council as we still have too many other items we are concentrating on as we end 2021.
- Finally, Rick pointed out that a major agenda item for November's agenda will be our follow-up to the recent audit finding.

Finally, we discussed the monthly status reports that were submitted by Carol in conjunction with Ingrid, Melissa and Barb as Carol highlighted the many accomplishments in these ministries. Mike gave a brief update on the Sanctuary Enhancement project and stated that he would be submitting a more detailed report at next month's meeting.

The meeting was concluded at 8:50pm with the Lord's Prayer and adjournment.