

**Minutes – New Journey Lutheran Church Council – February 13, 2024**

**Present: Pastor Beth Gallen, Cindi Brady, Mike Bartanen, Karl Flormoe, Jo Martinson, Mike Wilson, Pete Galindez, Guests: Roger Westland, Denny Rubenow**

**Meeting was convened at 5:30 pm.**

**Guests and new council members were welcomed.**

**Pastor led Dwelling in the Word Exercise. She outlined the process and then the group listened to the passage and briefly discussed their reactions and understanding,**

- (1) Minutes. Minutes of the January Council meeting were approved as distributed. Minutes of the 2024 Congregational Meeting were approved as distributed.**
- (2) Treasurer Report. Presented by Pastor Beth. January spending and revenue appear normal. Revenue estimate still shows a gap between committed and expected revenue and the mission spending plan of roughly \$20,000.**
  - a. Question was raised at Congregational Meeting regarding the handling of the \$3000 surplus from 2023. Consideration was given to using funds to offset possible 2024 mission spending plan deficit or delaying usage decision. After discussion: Moved, Seconded, Passed: “The money will be moved to the Reserve Account (Edward Jones) and revisited in June regarding possible reallocation to 2025 Food for Kidz Program.”**
- (3) Ministry Reports,**
  - a. Social Ministry requests another representative to Hunger Leaders Network. No action taken.**
  - b. Worship and Music inquired about spending proposed \$1869 allocation. Discussion of process for spending occurred. No final decision made.**
  - c. Pastor’s Report. Noted taking a comp day on February 19<sup>th</sup> and other days off specified in written report. The question of who was covering the church phone in those circumstances. Currently, Cindi B is covering.**
- (4) Old Business.**
  - a. Treasurer and Bookkeeper. Roger Westland presented a memo (attached to minutes). Denny Rubenow gave presentation advocating for continuing practice of using volunteer bookkeeper. After some questions and discussion, Roger and Denny excused themselves from the meeting.**

After further discussion, it was Moved, Seconded, Passed (with an abstention by Pastor Beth) to move forward with hiring an outside bookkeeper. Pastor Beth has been in contact with a qualified candidate and will reach out to propose contract details. Start date is uncertain but preferably March 1. Helga Essert will continue to serve as bookkeeper during the transition which will likely extend into March.

**(5) New Business.**

- a. **Officers for 2024.**
  1. **President: Cindi Brady.**
  2. **Vice-President: Pete Galindez**
  3. **Secretary: Karl Flormoe**
  4. **Treasurer: Mike Bartanen**
  
- b. **Ministry Team Liaisons.** Role and expectations for liaisons were discussed. Instances where liaisons could be valuable in bringing ministry team concerns to council were identified. Pete G and Mike W were appointed to create a position description and expectations for the liaisons and the issue will be discussed in March.
- c. **Mike B, and Cindi will work on changing access to Chase and Reserve Accounts once the filing to the Arizona Corporation Commission has been completed.**
- d. **Council Expectations and Covenant document was discussed. Document was accepted as presented.**
- e. **Executive Style of Management for Council was discussed. It was agreed to try that style, where President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer would meet prior to the regular council meeting to determine the agenda and action items. First meeting, via zoom, will be March 5. Pastor will send out zoom link.**
- f. **Yearly agenda calendar was presented and discussed. General enthusiasm for the concept was noted and council was asked to look at the calendar and consider possible ministry projects for 2024 which could be plugged into the placeholders on the calendar.**
- g. **Action items were summarized; letters of thanks to Lou and Helga for their service. Acknowledgment of Denny's concerns by Pastor and Cindi. Pastor will contact potential bookkeeper regarding contract details. Mike B and Karl will coordinate on handoff of Secretary duties. Mike W and Pete will work on liaison descriptions for consideration in March.**
- h. **Next meeting: March 12, 2024, 5:30 pm.**
- i. **Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm after Lord's Prayer.**

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Bartanen, Secretary