****

June 17, 2025

**Council Members Present:**  John Bailey, Rita Blomster, Chris Dawson, Linda Eytcheson, Andrew Ford, Gary Ely-Grisham, Jo Hoffmeier, Jerry Kilbert, Bridget Malme, Dan Maloney, Karen Olson, Joan Slabaugh, Pastor Frank Espegren

**Directors Present:** Pastor Jon Haug, Catherine Slabaugh,

**Guests Present**: Lynne Gilbertson

1. **Call to order: 6:32 p.m., Andrew Ford**
2. **Opening Devotion: Pr. Frank Espegren**
3. **Approval of Minutes from May Council Meeting**
   1. Moved by Chris Dawson and seconded by Andrew Ford.
   2. Ayes: Chris Dawson, Andrew Ford, John Bailey, Gary Ely-Grisham, Jo Hoffmeier, Jerry Kilbert, Bridget Malme, Dan Maloney, Karen Olson. Noes: none. Abstentions: Joan Slabaugh, Linda Etchyson, Rita Blomster, and Pastor Frank Espegren.
4. **Reports and Presentations (no action)**
   1. Executive Committee, Andrew Ford
      1. Property Committee will make a proposal regarding the upkeep of the stained glass windows at the next Council Meeting.
      2. Review of Congregation Matters meeting
      3. The Nominating Committee will be reconvened, with Jenny Mohler, Kim Hendricks, and Nick Zylstra
         1. Anticipating larger turnover of council members next year: 5 current members will term out; 3 will be eligible to run for new term.
      4. Reminder that July meeting will be a dinner party at Pr. Frank and Rhonda’s house, as per tradition
   2. Treasurer’s Report, John Bailey
      1. Income
         1. Regular envelope giving of $104,423 surpassed May of 2024 by over $24,000 and we are $78,000 ahead of last year. Although $13,000 short of budget for the month, we remain $55,000 ahead of budget for the year.
      2. Cash Balances: $311,883 in checking; $362,911 in money market account; and $519,291 in Mission Investment Fund
      3. Expenses: $165,492
         1. Include $5500 in attorneys’ fees to deal with tenant situation. Per Pastor Frank, that property now empty and back on market for new tenants.
         2. Salary expenses include retroactive pay corrections, as approved by Council previously
      4. Investments
         1. $500,000 transfer to new Merril Lynch account for T-bill purchases. Plan is to stagger maturity.
   3. Directors’ Reports
      1. Senior Pastor, Pastor Frank Espegren
         1. As submitted
      2. Youth and Family, Pastor Jon Haug
         1. As submitted
      3. Communications, Catherine Slabaugh
         1. Update and reminder about Pr. Frank’s retirement party, Saturday September 6
   4. Call Committee, Chris Dawson
      1. Ministry Site Profile submitted and live on ELCA Mobility Database
      2. Expect to receive slate of candidates from the Synod in July and to schedule initial interviews in August
      3. Synod will assist in identifying a Bridge Pastor.
   5. Unhoused Ministry Discernment Update, Jo Hoffmeier
      1. Goal is to build lay leadership with minimal staff involvement
      2. Discernment on sustainability: considerations to be more than just financial, need to think about the impact on property and staff, volunteer burnout, how many guests we are actually serving; what it is costing, and what the volunteers are telling us.
      3. Midtown HART is a 501(c)(3) which board will consist of 4 midtown Protestant churches; funding will come from those churches. Nonprofit structure will allow Midtown HART to access grant funds not available to religious organizations.
   6. Council Connect initiative, Jo Hoffmeier, Jerry Kilbert, Joan Slabaugh
      1. Under Congregational Care, it will become the responsibility of the Council to reach out to each member of the Congregation at least once a year, .Contact list from Realm.
      2. Soft launch this summer: please call the contacts on your list and keep track of the conversation
      3. Additional information and training for Realm in September to input information in Realm
5. **Announcements**
   1. Care For Creation, Jo Hoffmeier
      1. Request to keep doors closed to save energy. Need to balance sense of welcome with care for the environment.
      2. Pastor Frank: will discuss with staff and will report to the Council in August
6. **Adjournment, 8:02 pm**

**Respectfully submitted:**

**Chris Dawson, Secretary**