**Minutes of Annual Steering Committee Meeting**

**August 20, 2023, 11:35 AM**

**Little Church in the Pines**

**Members Present:** Tom Shanor, Connie Funkhouser, Greg Neal, Louise Neal, George Tway, Neal Humphrey.

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 with a prayer offered by Connie.

**Old Business:**

* There was no old business on the agenda.

**New Business:**

* The pancake breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, August 26. George has checked with Connie about arrangements, scheduling the grill from Fall River, and helpers.
* Connie said that typically the annual meeting would address changes in the Steering Committee, and she asked if each member would continue in their current positions. Each of those present will continue in their roles.
* Pam White is resigning from the Steering Committee, but she will still play piano regularly for church services. She will let us know when she will be out of town and help to get a substitute when needed. She will be missed. We will need to fill the Worship Committee chairperson vacancy.
* George suggested that we revisit the scheduling of the last barbeque and the annual pancake breakfast. They are placed close together in the calendar, and it would be better to have more time in between.

**Reports from Committees and Chairpersons:**

**Pastor Tom Shanor**

* Pastor Tom reflected on some recent difficult times in the church. He invited suggestions and comments about his work in the church. He is trying to adapt to needs and goals in the church. He will be using a new microphone to be better heard throughout the church, and he will keep checking on its arrival date.

**Steering Committee Chair:**

* Connie mentioned John Eric, who thanked the church for letting him practice on the piano. He also attended church services.
* Connie’s employees regularly attend our services without being asked to do so. It is a pleasure to have these young people among us so often.
* Connie thanked Tom for preparing the Sunday bulletin, and she will take that duty back for herself.
* She continues to send in the “Reflections” article in the newspaper each Thursday.
* Connie will remain in her position as Steering Committee Chair.

**Secretary:**

* Since Louise and Greg were out of town during the previous committee meeting, Pam White took the minutes. We thank her for that. Those minutes have been sent to members of the committee, and they are posted in the church “book.”
* We will continue to email the minutes to each member and others on the mailing list for their comments and additions/corrections.
* In the future, when Louise is gone during meetings, the meeting can be recorded and shared with her. She will then type up the minutes and send them out as usual.

**Finance:**

* Greg handed out his printed report, which is attached.
* He will email a copy of the report to Neal.
* Financially, we are close to the “break even” point with income and expenses. Our giving is down somewhat from the average, and our expenses have risen due to the plowing in the heavy snow year. Still, the church is in a healthy state with our savings.
* At this point we should not take on big projects and more benevolent enterprises.
* Neal moved that we check into rolling over a portion of our savings to higher yield CDs if they earn 2% or higher. George seconded the motion, and it was approved by vote.

**Membership:**

* Pat Ritari sent in her report by email.
* She mailed two “thinking of you” cards on August 14 to Doris Backstrom and Chip Drerup.
* Pat hopes to have the 4th quarter newsletter completed by Sept. 30 in order to hand out copies at church on Oct. 1. She requests submissions from Pastor Tom, Connie, and Jan Brown for RCCM by Friday, Sept. 29.

**Worship Committee:**

* As stated before, Pam White is retiring from the Steering Committee but will continue to serve as pianist.

**Year-Round Programs:**

* George was congratulated for his events this year. They have been well attended and highly appreciated.
* He is considering monthly movie events over the winter. The last one he held was a success.
* Neal will donate better trash cans and liners for events like barbeques and the pancake breakfast.

**Building Committee:**

* George will once again fix the downstairs toilet.
* A cabinet door in the kitchen needs repair.
* The door to the ladies’ bathroom needs repair.
* Greg will put together some tools for church use.

**RCCM Update:**

* No report at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by motion from Neal and unanimously approved.

The next Little Church Steering Committee Meeting is set for October 15, 2023, after our worship service.