**Minutes of Annual Steering Committee Meeting**

**August 21, 2022 11:50 AM**

**Little Church in the Pines**

**Members Present:** Tom Shanor, Connie Funkhouser, Pam White, Greg Neal, Pat Ritari, Louise Neal, Jan Brown, George Tway.

The meeting was called to order at 11:50 with a prayer offered by Connie.

**Old Business:**

* This meeting was announced several weeks prior, and it was posted on the website. Since it involves the election and retention of committee members, the duties of each chairperson were available by email or from Connie Funkhouser directly.
* Pam suggested that we could invite non-RCCM churches to come for summer hosting opportunities.
* George Tway has learned to count the offering money and will help when Greg and Gin are absent.
* Nathaniel Harvey has agreed to stain the church exterior. He will do it this year, if time allows. Otherwise, he will stain the church next summer. His bid is for $2600. We will pay labor and we will buy the materials. Greg moved that we accept this bid, and George seconded the motion. The vote was approved unanimously.

**New Business:**

* George Tway has offered to chair the Special Events committee. Pat moved that we accept his nomination and Pam seconded. The vote was unanimously in favor.
* Greg, George, and Connie F have volunteered to take trash away each week after Sunday services.
* Tom pointed out that the parking lot needs repairs. Jan will explore grant possibilities for the repair. Greg will get bids and look for opportunities to use paving companies that may already be doing work in the area.
* Greg will contact Greg Walker for a snow plowing commitment for next winter.
* Tom wants to replace carpet in the church. He will get samples and a bid. Greg will assist in getting bids for carpet.
* Tom would like to install blinds in the sanctuary windows for use in services during which light would interfere.
* The cross on the church top is unsteady and perhaps dangerous in bad weather. Tom suggested that we consider an I-beam metal cross replacement.
* The Sound system is not working well. Connie has a person who worked on the sound in her business. That person will look at our system and make recommendations.
* Lighting outside the church for evening and winter services is needed. Jan will see if there is grant money for this.
* Our 4th Quarter Meeting will be on October 16, 2022. All bids and information about these items will be due at that time.
* Nathaniel Harvey restained and repainted the benches and firepit metal. Tom requested payment of $125 for this service.
* The toilet downstairs is not working. (Note: George fixed it.)
* Routine maintenance decisions will be made and carried out without a vote from the Steering Committee. Tom and George will work on these. This was a motion by George and seconded by Pat. The vote was carried unanimously.
* Greg explained that Tom’s contract has never increased his pay, even though costs of living have increased over these years. We also will eventually need to hire a replacement pastor, and we need to provide a reasonable salary that can be offered to a new pastor in the future. An increase of $500 per month would have an adjustment effect through the end of Tom’s contract. Greg moved the salary increase and George seconded the motion. The vote carried.
* The stipend for playing piano for church services was approved at $60 per service. It will take effect immediately and will be paid to each person who plays the piano for services. The rate was moved by Jan and seconded by George. The vote carried.

**Reports from Committees and Chairpersons:**

**Pastor Tom Shanor**

* Pastor Tom says there has been higher attendance, less contention, and better offerings over the summer. Bible studies are going well. The barbeques are pulling in more guests. The reflections articles in the newspaper are well received. He thanked Connie for her work on those. Kelley is still cleaning the church as long as she feels able. The new landscaping is very attractive. Tom gets confirmation about his sermons. Tom acknowledges Pam and Neal Humphries for their contributions to worship services. He will be open to suggestions anyone would like to offer. Tom would like to consider opening the church during scheduled times for a casual place for people to come to chat or to worship/reflect privately. He would like the narthex to be a comfortable place for people to use. He will look at a schedule that can be posted on the website.

**Steering Committee Chair:**

* Connie Funkhouser would like suggestions for the appearance and function of our church website.
* She is keeping the website updated.
* Connie is writing Reflections articles in the newspaper.
* She is not able to come to some of the special events when she is required to be at her business.

**Secretary:**

* Our email system for submitting and approving our minutes is working well. We have a week to submit additions and corrections to the minutes after they have been emailed to members. All corrections and comments are appreciated.

**Finance:**

* Greg said that we are still in good shape financially. We can afford capital improvements and the raise in Tom’s salary.
* Both Jan and Greg plan providing instruction to members about giving opportunities such as required withdrawals from 401K retirement savings for tax-free giving to the church. Greg will draw up an informational brochure for tax-free giving. He may include Neal Humphries in this. This could also be displayed on the website and in our newsletter.
* Greg explained how we give and receive financial data to and from the RCCM.
* Attached is Greg’s financial report.

**Membership:**

* Pat is updating the directory, even after it was published. There are still a few people who need changes in their information.
* Ursula Porter will head up the September roadside cleanup.
* Newsletter information should be submitted by Sept 23, 2022 to give time for publishing.
* Pat will send a PDF copy of the membership by email to Steering Committee members.

**Worship Committee:**

* Pam has organized Special Events over the summer, and she was pleased with the amount of help she received.
* Pam will be away from Island Park for a while, but she has all the arrangements covered for services.

**Year-Round Programs:**

* George will be helping to arrange special events.

**RCCM Report**

* Jan updated the business of the RCCM.
* There is a new administrator, Jill Landon.
* The RCCM office is moving to the Community Food Basket Warehouse.
* The RCCM Board is discussing more administrative cost sharing among the RCCM churches.
* The RCCM has paid off their mortgage.
* The Food Basket ministry is growing at a fast rate. The RCCM is now more involved in the Idaho Falls Soup Kitchen. Gardening projects are implemented. This summer Lunch in the Park is popular for children who usually depend on school meals for food.
* The RCCM is now considering inviting nondenominational churches to join.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 by motion from Pam, seconded by Greg, and unanimously approved.

The next Little Church Annual Meeting is set for October 16, 2022 after our worship service. All new bids for services and other purchases will be presented at that time.