

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Epiphany  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina**

**Mission Statement**

*Epiphany is a welcoming community, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to share the GRACE of God, the LOVE of Christ, and the HOPE of new life with all!*

**Congregation Council Meeting Minutes**

January 19, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Zach Baker, Karl Florian, Dave Hinshaw, Kathy Knecht, Melissa Maltzahn, Gretchen Pfitzner, Cory Phillips, Jim Pierson, Santiago Saldaña, Jeanie Saphar, Marc Shideler, Charlene Wellborn, Carolyn Wiley, Pastor Wind

**Guests:** Pastor Phil Stringer

**Devotions and Opening Prayer**

Kathy Knecht called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, and members were given the opportunity to share their celebrations or concerns. Kathy led our devotions and opening prayer.

**Approval of Agenda**

**Motion to approve agenda:** *with the addition to Correspondence of: Names; and addition to New Business: Building Keys*

Moved: Jim Pierson

Second: Jeanie Saphar

Motion was carried

**Reception of Minutes**

**Motion to approve December 15, 2015 minutes:**

Moved: Zach Baker

Second: Jim Pierson

Motion was carried

**Ministry Updates/Reports**

- Property – Karl updated Council on the most recent quotes we have received regarding the lighting remedy costs. They were: \$18,250, \$19,610, and \$23,077 + \$3,200 which includes a dimmer fixture. The Property Committee will discuss and make a recommendation to Council. (The 3<sup>rd</sup> option is higher because, in the opinion of the contractor, the building is approximately 50% under what it should be for illumination.)
- Executive Committee –has submitted a motion regarding member purchases for uses at Epiphany. This will save the sales tax expenses incurred by the church. There is a method for use and sign-out of the card already in place.

**Motion: all purchases made for Epiphany by members will be done using the church credit card. This is done so that Epiphany saves the expense of the sales tax amount of all purchases. The only exceptions are: 1) in a true emergency situation; and 2) if the vendor/merchant does not accept Epiphany's credit card.**

Motion was carried (2015-01)

- Introductions were made to Pastor Phil Stringer, who was in attendance.

**Correspondence**

- The following thank you notes were signed during the meeting.
  - o Pastor Phil Stringer for his assistance and willingness to help the Council and congregation at this time of discernment.
  - o Peggy Matthews, Erica Walecka, and K. Monet Rice-Jallon for guest preaching during Pastor Laura's absence.
  - o Kitty Amos for assistance with Faith Formation and working with the confirmation program.
  - o Jim Cochrane for his dedication and hospitality at Epiphany.
  - o Scott Armstrong, Paul Halvorson, and Deni Thrasher for their service on the Congregation Council the past 3 years.

### **Pastor's Report**

Pastor Laura's attached. As part of her report, Pastor Laura distributed information to Council about the issues of same-sex unions in regard to theology, legality and social justice, as well as her personal views. This begins our discussion on Epiphany's position of this issue, leading to a policy should we be presented with a request for such a service.

### **Treasurer's Report/Financial Secretary's Report**

Treasurer's Report attached. There was much discussion regarding presenting a balanced or unbalanced budget to the congregation at the annual meeting. Mainly where we could/should decrease proposed budget funds. For most present, Council felt it was not wise to present anything but a balanced budget, but acknowledged that this process would not be easy as our membership and giving trends have been downward in recent years. Marc, as treasurer, was authorized to continue working with Pastor Laura to see how we might have a balanced budget to present.

### **Business in Process**

- Kathy Knecht passed out sign-up sheets to Council members, requesting (1) updated commitments as liaisons to committees, and for (2) announcement volunteers.
- Bishop's Letter on same-gender relationships - see Pastor's Report above
- Staffing Study - Doug Kearney will meet with us in mid-March. He had suggested that we try to get someone to help lead this process, possibly from the Center for Congregational Care. Kathy recommended that we wait and work with Pastor Doug.
- Organ Update - David Pillsbury provided a VERY thorough report on the history, many stages, fixes and updates, and possibilities surrounding our organ. Council was requested to review and bring their feedback to this council meeting.

**Motion: to accept and thank David Pillsbury for his comprehensive information regarding the history, updates, and the many stages Epiphany's organ has endured.**

**Motion:** Jim Pierson

Second: Dave Hinshaw

Motion was carried (2015-02)

### **New and Upcoming Business**

- Council Retreat is scheduled for January 24, 2015 from approx. 10:00am-2:00pm. Pastor Doug Kearney will be leading us.
- Annual Congregational Meeting will be immediately following worship on Sunday, January 25, 2015. A light lunch will be served.
- Council will provide a Call Committee nominations box outside of the sanctuary for the next 2 Sundays. After submissions are made and the Council has reviewed the recommendations, Kathy and Zach will begin contacting people to see of their interest and answer any questions. We should be able to put a committee in place by April to begin training. 5-7 persons are common, and the congregation should be as fully represented in mixture as possible.
- Building Keys - it is recommended that we inventory to determine how many building keys are distributed. This will help us for security purposes, and give us more accurate information as to who has access to the church. Property Committee will accept responsibility for this task and information.

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting February 16, 2015.

### **Closing Prayer and Adjournment**

**Motion to Adjourn:**

**Moved:** Gretchen Pfitzner

**Second:** Karl Florian

Motion: Carried

Pastor Stringer offered the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Shelley Hood, Recording Secretary

Attachments: Pastor's Report  
Treasurer's Report  
Summary of Motions, 2015