January 16, 2023 MEFC Board Minutes

Scott Lovell called the meeting to order. Scott led the devotion on waiting on God. Roger was volunteered to lead the devotion in February. Pastor Pete opened the meeting in prayer.

Secretary’s Report: Kimber wanted to clarify Pastor Pete’s housing allowance was declared for the year 2023. With that correction, the December minutes were approved via m/s/c.

Treasurer Report: Kerwin gave the Treasurer’s Report. The total income for the month of December was $43,126.83, and total expenses were $36,994.77. The carpet fund is currently at $38,296 as of January 16, 2023. The Treasurer’s report was approved via m/s/c.

Trustees Report: Doug gave the Trustees Report. The parsonage will have a quick turnaround. There is some painting that needs done, but that will be done at a later time. The Jenkins will be moving some things in this Friday and the following Friday. All the appliances are working.

The rolled carpet is in and the tiles are still being shipped. Eli will pick up the carpet in Sioux Falls, as it will lower the tax and delivery charge by approximately $1,300. They are going to start removing carpet this Saturday, January 21. The following Saturday they will start removing the pews and sanctuary carpet. Church service will be in the Family Life Center on January 29th and February 5th. The cost of the carpet itself should be just under $33,000. The labor cost will be paid to Tonya weekly. The total cost should be under the $50,000 that we budgeted.

Youth and Discipleship Report:

* Pastor Pete is working with Pastor Nelson on a Valentine’s Dinner to be held at the Meriden Community Center. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.
* Kimber and Pete are going to be leading a family VBS over the summer and will incorporate the youth group’s local mission trip.
* Last month the Youth Group had a Christmas Party with Oakdale. They also helped with the Awana Night of Giving, which is a highlight every year.
* The Band of Brother’s Men’s Study has been going well, and he would always like to see more men join.
* Pete shared that Parent Equip nights have not been as well attended this year. While they have not looked like he imagined, they have been well received by those who have participated.
* Pastor Pete is excited about how God is moving in our church and all the new faces we have been seeing lately.

Sunday School Report: Pastor Pete shared that Kyle Oswald is teaching the book of Colossians through the rest of the quarter. Mark mentioned that it seemed that the women’s class had gone over very well last quarter.

Deaconess Report: The Deaconesses are trying to plan a parent’s night out with childcare provided. Jen mentioned that Kathy Nelson will be stepping down from her role with Awana next year. Kathy has been using her personal laptop for the Awana program. The board decided to look into what type of computer we need to run the Awana software.

Deacon Report: This was given by Scott Lovell.

* Michael Slininger will be preaching next Sunday and Scott will preach the following Sunday.
* Nelson will start in the office on February 1st and will begin preaching on February 5th.
* We are going to be doing a new membership class starting February 19th and the class will run for 4 weeks.
* The annual meeting will be March 26th right after church with a potluck using disposable dishes.
* Scott and Mark are working on renewing the non-profit status of the church.
* A newcomer’s luncheon will be planned after Pastor Nelson gets settled.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business:

* Pastor Nelson would like to claim $800 a month for their housing allowance for 2023, which is $8,800 for the year (February through December 2023). This was approved by the board via m/s/c.
* The nursery has been very full the last few weeks. Our church software has a nursery check-in system, but it will not operate with the I-pad and printer we already have because the new system is android based. For $1,200 to $1,500 we can get two devices and a printer for parents to check in their own kids. Kerwin made a motion to have Pastor Pete purchase two tablets and a printer. This was m/s/c.
* The nominating committee has been meeting. All the positions have been filled except one Deacon position, which they are still recruiting for.
* Doug and Bryan offered to do the year-end financial audit.
* Doug shared that they started up Shepherd’s Table in a modified way last week. It was held at Crossroads church in Cherokee, which is a more convenient location for those who attend this ministry. They had about 20 people attend, drawing from the old group of regulars. They will resume holding Shepherd’s Table on the first Tuesday of each month at Crossroads.
* Scott shared a first draft of next year’s budget. There are some items that are not finalized, including staff salaries and the missions budget. Please let the Budget Committee know if you have any questions.
* Pastor Pete and Kimber reclused themselves as the board proceeded to discuss staff salaries.
* Adjustments made to staff salaries were m/s/c.

It was m/s/c to adjourn the meeting.

The minutes were taken by Kimber Younker, board secretary.