**January 6, 2020 MEFC Board Meeting Minutes**

The regular monthly board meeting was held on Monday, January 6, 2020, with 14 members present. Devotions, titled, “Kneeling to Stand,” were given by Pastor Andrew. Pastor Andrew and Pastor Pete washed the feet of each board member and prayed individually for each to go out and serve in Christ’s love. Pastor Andrew opened the meeting in prayer. Devotions for the February meeting will be given by Eli Paulsrud.

Secretary’s Minutes were reviewed. One correction was made. It was m/s/c to approve the minutes following the correction to be made.

Treasurer’s Report was given. December Income was $67,658.06. December expenses were $34,595.40. General Fund balance was $32,561.76. It was m/s/c to approve the Treasurer’s Report.

Trustee’s Report was given. The thermostat control boxes will be reinstalled and set to remain at 70-72 degrees at all times. An offer for a contract with Access Systems for use of a new Ricoh office printer was reviewed. It was felt this contract would save approximately $100/month. Access Systems would buy out the church’s current printer contract. It was m/s/c that the contract will be reviewed and as long as it is felt to be acceptable, the church should proceed with the proposed Access Systems contract. There will also be training sessions offered for those who will use this printer.

Pastor Andrew’s Report: The theme for 2020 will be “Kneeling to Stand.” Special events for the month of December were reviewed. Pastor Andrew made 32 pastoral care/counseling visits. Members were asked to think about a possible widow/widowers ministry in the future. Monthly average attendance in September 2019 was 138.8. October’s average attendance was 154.75. Monthly average in November was 150. And in December the attendance averaged 141. The 75 Year Anniversary of the Church will be planned by a committee with the first meeting to be held in February. There will possibly be two Haiti trips this year due to a large amount of interest. We always need to include our sister churches in our prayers as well as our own church.

Pastor Pete’s Report: This school year’s theme, “A Year with Jesus,” continues. The youth held a Christmas party at the church and also served with the AWANA night of giving. Adult Sunday School continues with Scott who has been teaching the winter quarter on Ephesians. Pastor Pete has been teaching Bible Instruction Class all school year. Most 2:42 groups took a break in December and will continue again in January. Church Community Builders new online giving platform has been pushed back to early 2020, with more information coming in the next few months. The new Church Community Builder system is being used to help with scheduling nursery check-in/security. Saturday, January 25th will be the annual CCC event at the church. Pastor Pete is also looking for more volunteers, especially a woman, to help with Winter Blast.

Deacon Report: Mark Johnson will tentatively be the Adult Sunday School teacher for the next quarter. Annual Pastoral reviews are being scheduled. There will be a congregational meeting held January 19th to discuss what the congregation is feeling regarding the National EFCA proposed change in the Statement of Faith. It was suggested that another announcement about the availability of Right Now Media be made for all church attendees. There may be some who do not realize this resource is available.

Deaconess Report: Deaconess group is currently reviewing more options for MEFC apparel. There is tentatively a March 14th Coffee House event being planned. Valentines Day dinner will be held tentatively on February 15th if Talon Penning is available to do this again.

Old Business: Stu Hogg has reported it is not worth trying to put a new operating system on the current sanctuary computer. Scott Lovell will get the software requirements to Pastor Pete and have Pastor Pete price new computers.

It was suggested that the Haiti trip funds have a separate account, only for trip funds. This would be similar to the way the youth budget is handled. Jason Farver offered to be in charge of a Haiti trip account, which would be kept separate from the Haiti missionary account that the treasurers currently handle. It was m/s/c for Jason to be in charge of setting up procedures for this new account. In the future, all Haiti trip money needs to go directly to Jason Farver, rather than in the church offering plate or the general missionary fund. Jason will visit with Doug Goodburn and Steve Nelson regarding getting this account set up.

Pastor Andrew and Pastor Pete are both interested in going to Haiti. Last year’s trip they were planning to take was cancelled. It was m/s/c that the church will pay their trip expenses for a 2020 Haiti trip.

New Business: Doug Goodburn relayed a thank you for prayers from a family who attends Shepherds Table. Their home recently had high levels of carbon monoxide, requiring them to seek hospital treatment.

The Nominating Committee will include Greta Petersen, Carey Ducommun, Jason Farver, Bruce Schmadeke, and Talon Penning. This committee will hold their first meeting in January.

The 75 Year Celebration will need a committee to develop ideas for this event. The board recommended a date of July 26th – August 2nd week. Mark will ask for volunteers from the congregation to be on this committee.

A Board Retreat will be held Saturday, March 28th at the Oakdale Retreat Center. This will be a time for board members to meet in fellowship in a nonbusiness setting.

It was m/s/c to adjourn the meeting with no further discussion.

Mark Johnson closed in prayer.

Minutes recorded by Board Secretary, Linda Grauer.

Addendum:

A short board meeting was held following church service on Sunday, January 12, 2020.

It was m/s/c to give $150 camp scholarships again this year.

A discussion was held regarding the wisdom of having both pastors gone to Haiti for 10 days. Because the board had previously said this was OK, it was m/s/c that this will remain approved, but in the future the board prefers not to have both pastors gone for such an extended period of time.