

Council Meeting Summary April & May 2018

Church council has been very busy with 3 meetings in April and May! It has been important to us to keep moving forward with Capital Campaign and to have a smooth transition as Pastor Sandi leaves and Pastor Sproul joins us. And to keep up with other business too. Here is a summary of some of our actions in April and May:

Our finances are looking good for the 2018 budget! Anticipated income January to April was \$60,000 and we have received \$66,456. April expenses were right on budget. Capital Campaign donations continue to come in and are placed in a specific checking account for the building project. More than \$65,000 has been received to date. An audit of our books for 2017 has been requested, we have two members who have volunteered for this project.

John Pietrella has received quotes for repair/replacement of our outdoor sign, that fall in the range of \$20,000. It seems more economical to move to a simpler design that is beautiful and more permanent than the changeable letters style we have now. John is working with masons and other vendors to look at his sketches and come up with a better plan. Council has received some funds from our insurance company, and this process is ongoing.

Capital Campaign Temple Talk was held on April 22nd at both services. Loan application and documentation is almost ready to send out for non-binding pre-approval. We are committed to moving forward with our project even during this time of pastoral transition. Next step: form a building team - a committee of people who can get us to the next step of narrowing down the scope and talking with architects and contractors. Please see John Pietrella or any council member if you are able to participate. This is a very important step and will define our project going forward.

Immanuel has a new Community Partner. TOPS - Taking Off Pounds Sensibly has a second group that will meet here on Saturday mornings. This provides a little bit of additional income and supports people in our community.

Documentation and Covenants were completed per NE Synod guidelines for the departure of Pastor Sandi D'Amico. A lovely "Thank You and Good Luck" event was held on May 13th with a few tears, some laughs and a few gifts. Her last Sunday to preach will be May 20, 2018. We will celebrate Pentecost, a Baptism, and have a small prayer time in the service for Pastor. Godspeed Pastor Sandi!

Council received and approved a proposal to replace the kneelers around the Communion rail, and the seat cushions on the altar. A member is donating all of the neutral fabric, and her time and expertise to sew these items for us. Council approved up to \$600 from Memorial Fund to be used for the foam and other materials needed. We look forward to the new look and having a more comfortable space. This item has been on our Wish List for a long time and we are grateful that it is coming together!

A donation was received for an internal humidifier for our beloved grand piano. This was recommended by the person who tuned it as a way to protect the wooden sound board in an environment that experiences many changes in temperature and humidity. This tuner estimated the value of our Yamaha piano at about \$50,000 today.

Due to some positive changes in our 2018 budget, Immanuel is able to pay for some of the landscaping services that are done by a family in our church. Council voted to offer \$300 for the months of June, July, August and September (total \$1200) to cover the cost of supplies, and express appreciation for the work and time that is given. This team will also do some pruning of trees along our driveway to support our neighbor and make minor repairs to the lawn from any damage done by snow plows.

Immanuel welcomes Pastor Ed Sproul as supply pastor this summer. Pastor Sproul will lead us in worship at 9 a.m. beginning May 27th. This follows our usual schedule of having one unity service in the summer. Pastor Sproul will also conduct the Third Mondays Communion service at 11 a.m. on the third Monday of the month. This allows him to check in with some of our senior members and determine if visitation would be beneficial. Pastor Sproul is also available to provide pastoral care on an as needed basis. Please contact him by calling the church Tues-Thurs or contacting him directly. Phone numbers will be printed in the bulletin and included in the eNews.

This summer, VBS will be a one-day retreat this year, in conjunction with the United Methodist Church with theme Feeding the 5,000.

Youth and Family Ministry will host Animal Adventures in 2018, as a community outreach and part of Sunday School programming. Thank you to the family that donated part of the cost of this exciting presentation!

Next Council Meeting Wednesday June 13th with presentation from Pastor Sara Anderson, Associate to the Bishop. Pastor Sara represents New England Synod and will be working with us throughout the transition and call process. Discussion will focus on how our Pastoral coverage will change in the fall (more time, more worship services, more support, possibly with Pastor Sproul) and the process of calling a new full time pastor.

As a side note, several people have asked about Pastor Amanda Nelson as a candidate for Pastor at Immanuel. Pastor Amanda would not be permitted to work with us, due to the many wonderful relationships she already has here (and with her parents who are members!) Most importantly, Pastor Amanda has a new-ish job that she loves, and is happily settled in the state of Maine. She is grateful that we are thinking of her and sends many blessings for our journey.