

Bethesda/Immanuel Joint Council Meeting 8/13/2020

Present: Sharon Bestul, Chuck Perry, Al Reedy, Jane Hauser, Ed Metelica, Yvonne Cox, Mary Meierotto, Paul Lundberg, Lynette Benzschawel

Meeting was called to order by Immanuel Council President Al Reedy at 6:06pm

Devotions were given by Ed Metelica

July Secretary's Report – Motion made by Yvonne and seconded by Al to accept the joint July meeting minutes. All favored.

Pastor's Report – Mary shared that she has conducted funerals and graveside services this summer for Lyle Huusko and Paul Wester

Mary is a part of numerous zoom meetings with the synod and other area clergy. These meetings include pastoral care issues, SAM stuff, and Racial Justice issues in our area.

Book studies are huge in pandemic times. The book study on "Beauty" has concluded and the controversial and difficult subject "White Fragility" book by Robin DiAngelo will begin September 10.

Denise Sweet, a prominent Native American poet, speaker, and professor of creative writing, literature, and mythology will speak at a service in Bethesda September 13 and Immanuel September 16th

Sunday Coffee hour is back to 11:00am (after online MEVO service)

Old Business – The Sunday morning MEVO services seem to be working well with the purchase of new equipment. Thank you to Diane Fizell for purchasing camera

The Under 60 year-old group has been meeting and came up with a name for their group, JOY (Just Older Youth)

Salt Shaker Meals – Yvonne reported Bethesda participation. There are six groups of nine or ten participants, Groups continue to meet in Cornucopia

New Business – Gertrude (Malawi) will be starting her seminary training this fall with help from Bethesda, & Immanuel. Total year cost will be 4300.

Paul reported on the Racial Justice Ministry with a special emphasis on Immigration. A forum of presenters from West Texas Episcopal Diocese and the ELCA Southwest Texas synod are heading up the effort to assist immigrants seeking asylum. There are hundreds here in the US in detention centers that have court dates and need a sponsor in order to be released. Bethesda and Immanuel are at the beginning process of sponsorship and also inviting people from outside our communities to help us with this sponsorship. There is a need for sponsors for these refugees in detention centers and Bethesda & Immanuel are looking into the possibility of assisting by providing accommodations while waiting for court date.

Next joint meeting will be September 10th at 6:00 pm. Mary will do devotions.

Joint council meeting adjourned at 6:50pm

Bethesda Council Meeting

Meeting called to order by President Ed Metelica at 6:51 pm.

Present: Ed, Mary, Yvonne, Jane, Lynette and Paul via ZOOM

July Secretary's Report – Yvonne moved to accept the report and Jane seconded

July Treasurer's Report - Jane made a motion to accept and Yvonne seconded

Pastor's Report - refer to joint meeting minutes

Old Business – Council voted to purchase on a defibrillator for \$1789.00 discounted from \$2974.00 from AED First Response. There is money left over in the budget from the line item “Equipment Expense” because we did not need to purchase a new computer for Ashley. Jane made a motion and Yvonne seconded. Discussed the deep cleaning of the entire church building; will remind congregation calling for volunteers in newsletter

Discussed the need for new male council member to replace Dean Rau

New Business – During the Sunday service Mary will request “God’s Work Our Hands” ideas from the congregation

Adjournment – Yvonne made a motion to adjourn and Jane seconded at 8:10pm

Submitted,
Lynette Benzschawel