

October Consistory Meeting Minutes 10-25-2020 --

In attendance: Harry Peters, Sr., Joan Rinehimer, Lisa Ceaser, Chris Dietrich and Pastor Lou

Guests – Allen Dennis, Steve Moyer, Bonnie Silveti

11:30 – Pastor begins with prayer 1:00pm - Adjourned

Discussion regarding **bids received for painting of exterior of church**. Three bids rec'd, Brannon Painting \$23,876, additional \$2700 from sub for pressure washing, All Phase Painting - \$12,865 and Vercusky Painting - \$10,200. Vote, unanimous for Vercusky Painting from Hazleton. Consensus was he was a good guy, honest and liscensed and insured. Required votes by congregation scheduled for Sunday 12/6 and 12/13, if approved, will discuss special collection and use of Steeple Fund/Carillon fund to offset cost from Building Fund. Butch will reach out to Vercusky to find out payment terms. (UPDATED – 10/26 – Vercusky requires no payment until job is complete.)

2021 Budget Committee has been formed – Bonnie, Ruth, Deb, Steve and Chris as treasurer/advisor.

2021 Consistory is almost formed – Cliff Raedler, and possibly Jenis Bunnell, Ruth and Bonnie. Joan, Butch and Chris are staying on. Lisa is stepping off.

Treasury Report – motion to approve by Lisa, Second by Joan, Approved

Benevolences discussed – Due to lack of income from 300 club we voted to decrease amounts give to our 4 benevelonces – Seminary - \$100, Phoebe Devitt - \$100, Bethany Childrens - \$200 and OCWM - \$500. Pastor will do a special OCWM/Benevolence service on 11/15 and a special collection will be taken up to help supplement what we give.

PSA on FB and elsewhere regarding the correct **way to make food donations** to the food bank, a box of food was left outside in the rain at the clothing bin and had to be discarded. There is a sign on the door with Pastor's contact that he can be at the church usually within 10 minutes or so to meet folks.

Christmas decorating of church will be after service Nov 22, Next Consistory meeting also Nov. 22

Pastor's report –

1. **Outreach** via phone continues since he cannot gain access to nursing homes due to pandemic. Continuing with Communities of Practice and Anthracite Mission Council.
2. Food pantry is being utilized and thanks to Penny for organizing and helping greatly with it. Expected increase in need due to Thanksgiving and holidays ahead.
3. Pastor rec'd call from **insurance co. Brown and Brown** out of Bloomsburg area wanting to quote us a price on a policy. Consistory agreed to a free quote using current insurance (Guide One) dec page for an apples to apples comparison. Pastor said he will take care of it and let us know the outcome.
4. Discussion on updating **current active membership lists**, current list is from 2008 and was reviewed by consistory to remove deceased members. Pastor drafted a letter and survey to send out with hopes of enticing members back and finding out if they want to remain on active rolls. Suggestions were made to wording of letter and putting survey on postcard to be returned to save on postage. Consistory will provide Pastor updates/suggestions to letter for him to consider. It was thought it was a bit harsh with certain language used by previous Pastor's.
5. **Christmas Eve** – due to pandemic and expected increase in attendance going over capacity limits, there will be TWO services this year 7:30 and 11:00pm. Signups for each will be posted for reservations and to ensure we can maintain CDC Guidelines. We will NOT use real candles due to pandemic and blowing them out. We will purchase battery candles from Memorial Fund.

