

Welcome:

Glenn welcomed all participants at 7:03

Devotions

Tom Rewolinski offered the devotions, thoughts on Romans 5.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes Glenn:

Glenn offered a motion to add an item to resume zoom meetings. Adam seconded

Motion approved.

Patrick moved to approve agenda and Minutes. Tom seconded.

Motion approved.

Old Business

1. Congregational Meeting Review

Glenn complimented the pastors on their review of the congregational meeting.

There were no questions or comments

2. Spirit of Joy Update

Received an email from Spirit of Joy. We are meeting them in person at Gilbert at 9 AM Wednesday 12-22.

Thadd offered additional comments on the phone conversation.

Vince asked about the Korean church time slot. There was no further discussion about changing the Korean church time slot. As long as SOJ worships before Desert Cross, there is no impact.

3. Strategic Plan Next Steps Pr. Andrea/Pr. Thadd/Glenn

Pastor Andrea reminded us to keep this on our minds. Glenn suggested it be on the agenda every month. Tom R. said the Stewardship team is meeting tomorrow to discuss their strategic plan next steps. Al Buhl offered suggestions which Glenn will forward to Tom.

Reports

1. President's Report Glenn

Attendance appeared to be good at both sites. Chad's celebration brought out people to Tempe. Glenn is hoping Christmas donations will help make up the deficit.

2. Pastor Reports Pr. Andrea/Pr. Thadd

Pastor Andrea:

All things Advent and Christmas. Pastor Thadd offered a class over Advent. Doing finishing touches on Christmas Eve. Pastors are starting to think about Lent and Easter.

With Denise V., planning visits to shut-ins to offer communion.

Chad's farewell was well-attended.

Looking forward to working with Joni in his new role.

Giving appears to be picking up.

Pastor Thadd: He enjoyed his "Close to Home" class. Spent time forming teams to look for next Youth Director and Worship/Music director in Gilbert. Movie night was successful. It was "The Star." A good gathering of people. Glenn said the popcorn was the best.

The conversation with Spirit of Joy. They sell the building next week, but don't move until the end of February.

There's an opportunity with a "Youth Cohort" to see what others are doing and possibly sharing with other churches. Program is through Princeton Seminary and involves Presbyterian churches.

3. Financial Report Vince/Doug

Finances for November was at \$80,600; expenses at \$100,600. Giving is running \$13,000 less than 2020. We have more pledges than for 2021. ~20 new pledges, 57 no change, 70 pledges increased, 8 pledges decreased.

Community Center break-in: Doug went to court prepared to testify but the defendant pled guilty.

Tom moves to accept financial report as presented. Stan Seconded. Report was approved.

4. Committee Report(s)

a. Finance Vince

Committee met and discussed the report above. Then they discussed cash on-hand. As of the finance committee meeting, there was \$73,000 in checking. A large increase in Dec 12th giving (over \$31,000). Christmas giving will determine whether we need to float money because the final paychecks need to be drawn next Wednesday.

Audit committee: chairperson may have left Desert Cross and others may not be available. They are looking for volunteers who have some financial/accounting experience.

Considering recommending we publish our financial status either on the web site or with the bulletins. Stan asked whether a log-in might be required. Vince said they weren't thinking about that.

b. Stewardship Tom/Stan/Pr. Thadd

Tom said they are going to send out Thank You cards and begin the Time and Talent survey.

Stan asked if the stewardship team would reach out to folks who did NOT return pledge cards.

Thadd said the team is still discussing reaching out. The council discussed that "forgot to turn it in" is the most common reason. Pastor Andrea suggested a blanket email to everyone would be a good way.

c. YAG Anna P.

Anna was not present. No discussion.

5. Gilbert Chamber Report Patrick/Adam

Patrick said they are discussing the future role of the Chamber. He asked everyone to write up their understanding of their position as a way to formalize the Chamber positions as a way to improve effectiveness.

Adam said the time and talent questionnaire will help Gilbert identify where help is available.

6. Program Reports/Questions

No discussion.

New Business

1. Youth Director & Gilbert Worship Leader Search Process Pr. Thadd/Pr. Andrea

Pastor Andrea reported that the search committee efforts are getting started.

Pastor Thadd shared that Daniel will make sure there are people in Gilbert.

The position is posted on Indeed and they are hoping to start seeing responses.

Ask members who attend in person and on-line if they know a possible candidate, let them know about the position. Adam suggested "posting" the position with the Synod. Thadd will do that.

Pastor Andrea said the Synod has a communications Director. It's posted on a Lutheran web site.

The Youth director committee has met; they are revising the job description. In the short term, Anna is helping with that. Confirmation is covered (combined with Pastor B. Cain at SOJ). There's a youth ministry page on ELCA site. We are also looking around the Synod for possible ways to combine efforts, and even other protestant churches. SOJ doesn't have a Youth director and the Children ministry (Shannon's position) is worked by a volunteer.

Adam asked if there is an "intern" program for Pastors. Now there are 2 years in class and 2 years interning.

2. Membership Statistics Pr. Andrea

Every year in December we publish membership statistics and show people who are released or inactive. People who moved away, passed away, people who have not attended. Children and Grandchildren who don't live here or don't worship. Vince asked if people who are released show up and want to participate again, is there a process. Andrea said: No, they can just get put back on the list. The people who are released are not notified. It is just for our records and the ELCA asks for this information.

Tom moved to accept the membership statistics as presented. Bill seconded. Motion passed.

3. Meeting on Zoom vs. IN-person

Adam loves Zoom due to other obligations. Bill also loves Zoom. Stan asked if this was a temporary decision. Glenn suggested that we rely on Zoom into March and re-evaluate then. We will just state at

the end of each meeting whether the next meeting is planned to be Zoom only. We will always have the Zoom option.

Prayer Concerns

Pray for Marla and her family with the illness of her father.

Anna and Paul are moving into their new home. Prayer of Thanksgiving for them.

Glenn suggested we pray for Chad and Michael in their new directions.

Closing Prayer Pr. Thadd

Adjournment Glenn