

Deacons Meeting Minutes – November 20, 2016



First Church's Mission Statement: "People dedicated to Spiritual Growth, Loving Relationships, and Sacrificial Service"

Deacons: (Article X - DEACONS: "The deacon body's central interest is the spiritual, physical, and emotional well-being of the church family." and "the deacons serve as caregivers of the congregational members.")

(Distribution: Paper copies placed in "Keypersons" mail slot for Glenn and Anna Miller by the church secretary; email to all others by the deacon secretary.)

The deacons met on November 20, 2016 in Room 154 after the morning worship service. After a blessing by Chair Greg Klinedinst, the deacons lunched together.

Three handouts were distributed after lunch: They were today's agenda, the 2017 Deacon List, and the August 28, 2016 Minutes.

There were 18 deacons of the 20 deacons present plus Pastor Don and Vivian Hubbell. They were: John and Mary Esther Anderson, Judy Deitch, Larry and Pat Gible, Greg and Debbie Klinedinst, Brian and Jackie LeGrand, Ed and Arlene Martin, Glenn and Anna Miller, Brad Nicholas, Leonard and Helen Stoner, and Galen and Pat Trimmer.

Absent: Ken and Carol Gordon.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Greg Klinedinst at 12:30 P.M.

2. Devotions: Greg then led the deacons in a devotional period from "Our Daily Bread." The scripture was Psalms 27: 7-14 followed by a reading. Greg then led us in a prayer.

3. Agenda: Three items were added to the agenda. They were reorganization, confidentiality and restructuring of deacon lists. The revised agenda was approved by motion of Mary Esther Anderson and seconded by Leonard Stoner.

4. Approval of the August 28, 2016 Minutes: There was a lively discussion regarding maintaining confidentiality on the one hand while at the same time being open to the congregation in our communications. As a result, Item 8 was deleted and was considered an executive session item. The motion was made by Pastor Don that *"Item 8 will read that it was addressed in an Executive Session and so noted in the general minutes. The Executive Session minutes will be provided to the deacons. The general minutes will be released to the church membership for normal distribution."* The motion was seconded by Brian LeGrand. The meeting minutes were then approved as amended.

As a result, the deacon secretary will release the amended August 28, 2016 minutes to our web master.

5. Love Feast – Follow up – Any comments on how it went, or suggested changes.

There were positive statements made regarding the simple meal and the simple bulletin with the words to the hymns printed on the other side, as well as liking the table arrangements.

A question. "Is it possible to add more space to the women's feet washing area? There was not enough space. Can the chairs be spread farther apart?" It was not a problem on the men's side.

Response: It will be considered at the next Love Feast.

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Another question. “Is it possible to delay the filling of the foot tubs until the Fellowship Meal is over? The chlorine odor was unwelcome during the meal. The deacons who fill the tubs feel the acute time pressure to do their responsibilities without delaying the LF Service.

It was decided that the solution is to sing a hymn after the fellowship meal to provide adequate time for them to fill the tubs.

6. Love Feast attendance – 63

7. Deacon’s Fund Collection - \$120.80. Fund now at \$868.70.

8. DVD ministry assignments. A form was sent around for deacons to sign up for Deacon of the Month and DVD deliveries. There are currently 11 deacon teams covering 11 months. The Klinedinsts and Andersons agreed to each serve by sharing a second month to fill out the twelve month schedule.

Currently there are three DVDs delivered each week to shut ins. It was suggested by Mary Esther Anderson to take along an Advent Devotional Booklet in our next visits in December.

Deacons were also reminded to fill in the Deacon Visit Register in the church office after visits are made.

Note: There were several tweaks to the 2017 Deacons List. Judy Deitch’s phone number was changed and Pat Gible will be providing support to her husband, but will not be performing some of the deacon responsibilities.

9. Deacon of the month – Discussed with item #8 above.

10. Pastoral support visitation - How do we want to handle visitation after Pastor Don’s Retirement on December 31, 2016? It is recognized that whoever will be our short term pastor, the deacons will need to provide assistance regarding our membership and visitation. Go by Deacon of the month or use our Deacon Assignment lists? After a good discussion, a motion was made by Jackie LeGrand and seconded by Ed Martin. It reads, *“As a person in need arises, the responsibility to provide visitation falls to the deacon group assigned on the Deacon List. This should not be the responsibility of the deacon of the month and not restricted to the assigned deacon’s assigned month.”* It was unanimously adopted.

11. Reorganization: The secretary is suggesting that it is time to pass the secretarial baton. Physical impairments have become more pronounced, causing quality to be more of a factor. A new secretary needs to be in place in the near future.

While not a resignation, the current secretary is feeling the need to step aside before the end of 2017, and preferably sooner. He is willing to train and assist his replacement if necessary to have a smooth transition.

12. Executive Session

The deacons held an executive session to review a confidential item of business.

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13. Restructuring of 2017 Deacon Lists. It was indicated that the 2017 church directory is now being updated. Pastor Don reviewed a list of shut-in members, a list that is growing. Others are refining the names in the 2017 Directory. Those changes will be updated on the computer shortly by Karen after the congregation reviews the paper directory listing in the lobby, making updates to it prior to December 4. Karen will then update the master directory and an electronic list of the names found in the 2017 directory will be forwarded to Larry Gible. Shortly after, Chair Greg and Secretary Larry will then develop the lists for each deacon team, considering the suggestions made in the meeting (such as CKV-TBHC and members in the western end of the county be assigned to Leonard and Helen Stoner, for example), the remaining lists would then be divided into the remaining ten deacon teams.

Although no definite date was given for the release of the lists, and looking at the timeline of things to be done, all deacons have their lists by the end of December.

14. 2017 Events

January Communion – With the first Sunday of 2017 on January 1st, the question raised was when to have the Bread and Cup. The Youth are leading the first Sunday (January 1) after an overnigher, and it was encouraged to have the youth serve the communion with the deacons. There was a concern about the anticipated low attendance on that day.

Rev. Melinda Carlson will be present on both Sundays, January 1 and 8.

Dr. William (Bill) Waugh, our District Executive will be preaching on January 8. He agreed to serve communion if needed.

A motion was made by Pat Gible, the second was not recorded, ***“to have the Bread and Cup Communion on the second Sunday, January 8.”*** There were two votes. Those in favor of January 1; those in favor of January 8. The motion to have the B&C Communion on January 8 was adopted. It was also by consensus that the bread will be broken from a loaf.

Other 2017 Dates

April 9, 2017: Love Feast

June 4, 2017 Communion

October 1, 2017: Love Feast

15. Next meeting – April 2, 2017

16. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Gible, Deacon Secretary

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