**COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES**

April 26, 2022

6:30pm

Pastor Brian Abasciano

Pastor Kevin Kimball

Number of congregants attending: 15

Pastors Abasciano and Kimball opened the meeting at 6:38 pm with prayer. As a reminder, Pastor Brian provided an overview of the purpose of community meetings – to connect as a church family on matters that concern us, to seek input from the church body, and to be open to God’s leading on church initiatives through community input and through prayer.

**Agenda:**

• Incorporation Update • Maintenance Project Update

• Website Member’s Page • Summer Activities/Services

• Budget Update • Nursing Home Ministry

**• Incorporation Update**

Pastor Brian reported that the church incorporation is complete and that the constitution bylaws will be used to serve as the official governing documents of the church. Though the language includes references and procedures for voting, the church, as a body, rarely votes on matters – decisions are typically made by the elders. He noted that all believers who regularly attend the church are practically considered members, though there are specific requirements to be a voting member. The incorporation documents will provide solid guidelines on pertinent matters. The bylaws and the articles of incorporation are posted on the church website in the members only section and on the church bulletin board. Additional legal assistance/clarification is needed with regard to two required incorporation policies (whistleblower and conflict of interest) concerning which he will follow up with the church attorney. He also noted that the incorporation status also, and most importantly, protects the membership from lawsuits pertaining to church matters.

Fielding questions from present congregants, Pastor Brian noted that minutes of meetings, annual filings, and holding at least one business meeting a year are required to keep the incorporation in good standing.

Expressions of thanks were extended to Pastor Brian for his work in getting the church incorporated.

**• Website Member’s Page**

Pastor Brian presented the church’s website private membership page noting it serves as a repository for information on church schedules and other documents (fellowship break, cleaning, prayer requests, statement of faith, articles of agreement, bylaws, worship team, bible study resources, church position papers, and community meeting minutes).

Discussion ensued on the posting of prayer requests. Some members expressed concern about the private nature of those requests, posting them on the member’s page without an expiration date for that posting, and the prayer request distribution lists (there are two – one broad list that includes former church members who have wanted to continue receiving prayer requests, and one for current members only). Suggestions were made to not post the prayer requests on the website, but to utilize that section for email announcements and to make sure that the church knows that individuals can ask for their requests to be for church members only rather than the broader prayer chain list if they prefer.

**• Budget Report**

Val Abasciano provided an update on the church budget noting last year’s budget was overspent by $6,500 with almost $20,000 of the budget charged to much needed maintenance projects. The church gave 43% of its budget to missions, noting a special $11,000 offering for our missionaries. The first quarter for the current year reflects an even break for revenue and expenditures – the church spent what came in. She stated the church has been addressing long-overdue maintenance and giving generously. She also noted a new accounting software that allows her to track expenditures and answer any finance reporting questions.

**• Maintenance Project Update**

Deacon Paul Hemond presented a list of maintenance projects completed over the past year that included:

* Parsonage roof replacement (new lead around the chimney)
* Church sanctuary lights on dimmers
* Parking lot curb removal (more to be removed)
* Resurfacing of the driveway (discussed adding more recycled asphalt)
* Refinishing of the sanctuary floor
* Purchase of area rugs
* Platform carpet replaced
* Fluorescent lighting converted to LED (more to be changed over)
* Scraping, caulking, painting of exterior church windows
* Spring landscaping

New projects to be completed include:

* Church window replacement (12) with stained glass display (quotes $10,500 replacement + $1,500 for stained glass display)
* Roller shades for the windows

Discussion ensued on the budget and on making the church financials available by posting them on the church’s website in the members only area. Various options for posting were presented (pie chart of overall budget, actual budget reports, process for requesting more detailed financial information).

* Church roof replacement (unexpected but highly recommended)
* Parsonage garage roof replacement (can be done in-house)
* Basement stairs at back of church (contractor required due to foundational structure)
* Basement door replacement
* Purchase of picnic tables
* Painting of interior of church (consideration of installing beadboard along the walls, waiting for decision and completion of window replacement before scheduling the work, color options, not painting the ceiling)

The group then prayed over the church’s incorporation, the website, the budget, and maintenance projects.

Pastor Brian then asked for prayer as to whether or not the church should give a large donation to the church missionaries again this year. Another community meeting will be scheduled for August or September, and further community consideration to such a missionary offering can be given then.

The group then prayed on the matter and over church maintenance.

**• Summer Activities/Services**

Pastor Kevin reported that bible study and prayer will continue throughout the summer months. Other summer activities include:

* Cookouts will be held at the Kimball home even though he and Mo will be away on outreach from May to July. A couple of cars from missionaries may be parked at the church parking lot during this time.
* Adopt a CRU student program (valuable ministry that supports and encourages the CRU students)
* Outreach opportunities with the CRU students

The pastors shared that they are thinking to have small groups in the fall for Bible study and prayer and sought input on this. There will probably be three small groups (one led by Pastor Brian, one by Pastor Kevin, and another to be determined), though the number of groups will depend on how many people participate.

The group then prayed for the summer activities, specifically as it relates to church participation and the understanding that these time sacrifices are an important component to the life of the church. Options to increase participation included adding more days, adding times, and changing locations.

• **Nursing Home Ministry**

Pastor Brian announced the nursing home may be willing to open back up to outside ministries, and, if so, would the church be interested in participating. The ministry consists of once a month modified services at Oceanside Nursing Home where a short sermon would be provided and church members would participate in the service on a rotating schedule, by way of sharing, praying and talking with the residents. The church body expressed affirmation that the church should pursue this, and Pastor Brian indicated that he would contact the nursing home to ascertain whether the church would be allowed to re-establish the ministry and what would be required for that.

The group then prayed over the nursing home ministry.

As Pastor Brian concluded the meeting, he noted the offering for the Poor Pastors totaled $5,552 and it was expected to reach $6,000.

The community meeting ended at 8:29pm.