

SUPERIORLAND EMMAUS BOARD MEETING

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Harvey MI

MAY 14, 2016

Meeting was called to order at 11:30 p.m.

Board members present: Gary Lubinski, Marvin LaGrew, Trina Johnson, Marcia Waters, Mike Deatrick, Pastor Ron Fike, Happy Wahmhoff, Jane Taylor and Jane Rombach. Members absent: Chuck Yeager, Pastor Bruce Steinberg, Jill Paris, Glenn Troupe and Martha Obmann. Guests: Sam Johnson, Emily Ritsema, Jan Stone, Sally Wahmhoff, Deb Jezek and Barb Merlo.

Barb Merlo was given a proxy by Martha Obmann to sit in her place (due to her husband's surgery) to present information and act as secretary for this meeting. Proxy accepted by the Chairman, Gary Lubinski.

Gary welcomed two (2) new board members (Jane Taylor and Jane Rombach) who were approved through an email and appointed to fill two of the three vacant board positions.

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. Marvin made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected; Second by Jane Taylor. Motion approved and minutes will be placed on file.

No Treasurer's Report as Chuck was absent. All walk receipts were placed in an envelope. Sam Johnson will deliver to Chuck.

Old Business:

There was a discussion regarding board members receiving and depositing money being bonded. The group decided bonding is not necessary. As an example, most churches do not bond their members who handle church funds.

There was a discussion regarding liability insurance during overnights and walk weekends. Gary will write a proposal to the Camp Michigamme Board to see if we can be included under their umbrella as a rider.

Walk Review:

The spring woman's walk was reviewed. Deb Jezek reported that the walk went very well and she thanked the Board for allowing her to serve as Lay Director. Deb will send thank you notes to several people who offered services during the weekend (ex: speaker showers, etc.).

Trina mentioned the kitchen sent leftover food as a mission outreach to areas in Marquette and Iron Mountain. She also asked that Superiorland Emmaus open a charge account at GFS so that future cooks do not have to put charges on their own credit card.

Trina reported that a new Superiorland Emmaus T-shirt was given to every new pilgrim.

Due to an emergency situation, Barb Merlo sat in as the Board Rep as Jill Paris moved to a table leader to relieve Marti Obmann of her responsibility at the walk because of her husband's heart surgery.

Barb mentioned several things to be aware of for future walks. Board responsibilities before the walk broke down. Setup and tear down crews were not secured until two days before the walk. Happy did a good job, with a few good helpers, to get the church ready and put back together on Sunday. The Team Selection Committee will do a better job of finding names for the set-up crew in September 2016.

The prayer vigil was incomplete several days before the walk and the prayer chart for Talk #4 was not prepared until the last minute by a non-board member.

During the walk a young woman had a seizure and needed a wheelchair. It was suggested we know if a wheelchair is available at all facilities used for walks. Happy has a wheelchair he will donate to the Superiorland Emmaus Community to be kept in the trailer for future availability. Thank you Happy and Sally.

There was a discussion regarding sleeping arrangements at each overnight. Men and women should be on separate floors or cabins and the Lay Directors or Auxiliary Directors should make that designation.

New Business:

Rev. Steve Rhoades has requested to step down as the Community Spiritual Director. A motion by Marvin to appoint Rev. Ron Fike as the new Community Spiritual Director, second by Marcia. Rev. Ron accepted the appointment and the motion passed.

A motion by Marvin to appoint two (2) new board members, Emily Ritsema and Jan Stone; second by Trina. Motion passed. Emily will fill a vacant 3 year position and Jan will complete 1-1/2 yrs of Rev. Ron's vacant position. The required roster of 15 members on the Board plus the Spiritual Director is now complete.

Several training sessions were discussed; sponsorship, Board members and Lay Directors. Randy Yelle and Barb Merlo volunteered to train the September 2016 Lay Directors and the Board members.

Rev. Doug Mater is being reassigned to Saginaw MI and Rev. Ron Fike was approved as the new Weekend Spiritual Director for the September 2016 men's walk. Sam Johnson will remain as the Weekend Lay Director. Other assigned clergy will be contacted.

The Team Selection Committee is still looking for an eligible Lay Director for the September 2016 Women's Walk. Requirements for the job include church participation, 4th day or accountability group participation and ALD experience at least two (2) times. Several candidates are unable to serve at this time. It may be necessary to petition the Board to approve a past Lay Director since time is getting very short to put a team together before the July overnights.

Rev. Rosemary DeHut will be contacted to serve as the Weekend Spiritual Director for September 2016 Women's Walk.

Barb reported that it was suggested by a clergy at the past walk to consider a policy regarding transgender people wishing to attend a Walk to Emmaus. There was some discussion regarding this issue. Randy Yelle volunteered to consult with several area ministers, write a policy, reviewed by his lawyers and present it to the Board at a future meeting for discussion and approval.

A training meeting will be scheduled as soon as a Women's Lay Director is selected and approved.

A special board meeting for the purpose of training members will be July 15th at 5:00 p.m. before the first scheduled overnight. (Woodland UMC, Michigamme).

Prayer concerns were not voiced at this meeting. Members were encouraged to share through an email.

Next Board Meeting is 5:00 p.m. August 19th before the second scheduled overnight (Woodland UMC, Michigamme)

Respectfully submitted by:

Barbara Merlo, Acting Secretary for Martha Obmann