

Dear Friends,

‘What would you do if I sang out of tune, would you stand up and walk out on me?’ This is a line from the Beatle’s song, “Help from my Friends.” His original line was ‘What would you do if I sang out of tune, would you throw a tomato can at me?’ and then changed it for fear that someone would throw one at him. As we come into our Annual meeting on Sunday, we have lots of reports, a budget to pass, a mission statement to work on, and business with the cemetery with the board of directors proposing a lease to the non-profit that currently runs it.

With the budget and mission statement, there are lots of ways they can be done. There is no perfect balance or words among them, but some words and line items in the budget are better than others. We do have to think about the consequences of each vote and how it will affect this year and the coming years. We aren’t voting on the mission statement as it is replacing the one in the constitution, but the board hopes we can come closer to a consensus.

There is less wiggle room with us leasing the cemetery property. Lots of legal jargon has to go into it. The basics is that our church voted to sell the property at a special congregational meeting in October of 2020 and it proved to be more than a Herculean task as many of the graves are owned by families and not the church. So, the board is proposing to lease it for 99 years to the board of a new non-profit that has been managing it for quite a while. The church would still own the property, but the maintenance, upkeep, and business (and insurance) would be done by this group.

We are a congregational church, so the power and decisions are made by those who show up to the church meeting. The board can only propose and I can give my opinion and input as can anyone else who is here. As we work on these issues and items, let’s remember that we are to love each other: Love is patient, love is kind, love is not envious, boastful, arrogant, or rude. It does not insist on its own way, but rejoices in the truth.

Peace  
Pastor Enno