

## **Community of Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes**

**April 20, 2023**

### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Present: Carl Albing, Carol Carlson, Mike Duesenberg, Dennis Engman, Wendy Fitzsimmons, Mike Hamernick, Andy Hennig, Sam Hunter, Mike Mathisen, Mark Schuneman, Michelle Sherman, Darrin Vick, Angie Way.

Excused: Stephanie Battista

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm

Devotions shared by Mark Schuneman.

Highs and lows – Council shared personal items.

### **Approval of minutes**

- The minutes from the March Council meeting were approved.

### **Pastor Darrin's Report**

- Four-year anniversary with Community of Grace, very thankful and blessed. Celebrating the staff and council.
- Pastor Darrin and Michelle shared highlights from the vision trip to the Dominican Republic. They met with two Haitian pastors and one Dominican pastor, visited their local neighborhoods, and learned about the ministry that is being done, as well as the challenges being faced. They also visited a medical mission with MOH, and stayed at the Mission of Hope campus in Jarabacoa where they were able to meet the staff. A key benefit of North American teams coming to serve the Haitians and Dominicans in the DR, is that they can help heal the cultural divide by loving and serving both groups of people. We are looking at taking a team to the Dominican Republic in 2024.

### **Pastor Angie's Report**

- Lenten meals and services were well attended.
- Seder meal experience had over 70 people in attendance and was a wonderful experience. It was helpful to have it on Wednesday instead of Thursday this year.
- Good Friday 11:30 service had 115 people, and the 7:00 pm service had 215 people.
- Easter Sunday attendance was 895 people.
- Wonderful music and spirit of joy in the building.
- New people are coming to services every Sunday. The Catalyst group has 20 people participating.
- Prayer retreat coming up on Saturday, 4/23.
- Last month of scheduled prayer focus is this month, led by Joe Ehrman. The prayer team will evaluate how to continue this into the future.

**Children's Ministry** – Wendy Fitzsimmons

- Easter Egg hunt had 400 attendees, lower than expected due to the large snowstorm. People were very grateful, and we gave away the extra eggs for people to take with them to bless others.
- VBS has 92 kids registered for 130 spots. Volunteer signups have started.
- His Kids attendance is strong.
- Camp Shamineau was held on the weekend of 4/14/23.
- Continued prayer for Britta with her pregnancy.

#### **Students –**

- April 30<sup>th</sup>, Youth worship night at Redeemer Lutheran in Fridley with BRNC (group of other local churches).
- Retreat at Okoboji was held on the weekend of 4/14/23.
- May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Big Night – last one for this ministry year.

#### **Service and Missions – Mike Duesenberg**

- Missions Funding report for March was reviewed.
- The vision trip to the Dominican Republic went well. We will be sending a team down to the DR in 2024.
- MOH food packing event fundraiser started April 16. We will be raising \$25,500.00 to send 85,000 meals to Haiti.
- MOH Partnership Sunday is coming up on May 21 and we are hoping to have Otis, or another leader come and speak.
- The garage sale is something Hannah would ask you to keep in your prayers. Volunteer sign up has started. Please be praying about how you might be able to serve this year.

#### **Seniors – Carol Carlson**

- ROMEO met at Denny's and will move to Perkins in May
- Pastor Mary Ellen has many wonderful volunteers, who helped bring gift bags to the seniors for Easter.
- Prayer squares are being considered for handing out to people as prayer reminders, and several seniors are interested in making them.
- Pastor Angie will attend the Lyngblostom annual meeting. Pastor Angie will do the devotions as they celebrate 25 years of our partnership.
- Discussed ideas on connecting children, youth, and seniors.

#### **Worship – Sam Hunter**

- Appreciation for the variety of worship experiences.
- Special music by Carl Schultes in the traditional service on 4/16 was greatly appreciated.
- MN Adult and Teen challenge will be here for worship on Sunday, 4/23.

#### **Groups – Carl Albing**

- Catalyst group started with 20 people.

**Adults/Welcome – Dennis Engman**

- Excellent volunteer team on Easter

**Treasurer's Report – Andy Hennig**

- Reviewed General Operating fund actuals and balances, including Missions funding.
- Reviewed the Endowment fund balances.
- Reviewed Reserve Fund balances.
- Reviewed Canopy of Grace balances. This will be reported on through 2023, as we continue to see contributions.
- CGLC 2023 budget by ministry area for March was distributed for review.
- Consultant for Employee Retention Credit provided the results of the analysis.
- Motion made to authorize sending in the form 941x for the Employee Retention Credit for five quarters to the IRS, the monies received will be deposited into the General Reserve fund and to authorize payment of the fee of \$4,500 Congregation Consulting Services. Motion approved.
- This decision will be communicated to the congregation in May as part of the financial update during services.

**Facilities – Mike Mathisen**

- Motion made to approve Bible Study Fellowship to use the church building again next year on Monday nights. Motion approved.
- Reviewed completed furnace replacement proposed plan. An initial discussion has been held with the Endowment committee for potential funding plan.

**Secretary – Michelle Sherman**

- No report

**Vice President – Mike Hamernick**

- Thank you to the church for supporting the Magnusson Gala.
- Faith mentoring team will be meeting on 5/7. Looking into how the team can help mentor younger generations. In June, Melinda will invite former student ministry participants to come to an event with the faith mentoring team.

**President – Mark Schuneman**

- May Offering – Mike Hamernick has 9 am contemporary, Carol Carlson has 9 am traditional, and Dennis has 10:30 contemporary.
- The May Council meeting will be held on 5/18/23.

**Other New Business**

- None

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Sherman