

WLC STRATEGIC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - UNAPPROVED		
Meeting:	May Church Council Meeting	Facilitator: Ann Baumann, President
Date:	5/9/2023	Minute taker: Janice Jones
Location:	Valley Creek Campus	
Start/End Time:	8:30AM - 10:30 AM	
AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION POINTS	ACTION ITEMS
Call to order and quorum determination	Voting participants present: Ann Baumann, Sheryl Breiholz, Janice Jones, Charlie Wesser, Ross Gerber, Jason Frye, Todd Watanabe, Evan Parkhurst, Wade Amundson (via conference call). Voting participants not present: n/a Non-voting participants present: Pastor Tom Plotenauer, Mike Ehnstrom	Action: motion made and passed that a quorum of voting members was present.
Opening/Devotion/prayers:	Pastor Tom shared details regarding the prayer retreat he attended in San Diego. Discussed the importance of "stepping into solitude" like Jesus did. He invited us to think about our own lives differently in this respect and consider what we can do to help others do so too. We ended our opening time by sharing one-word prayers and singing the Doxology together.	
CONSENT AGENDA:	April minutes and April financial report	
Minutes:	April minutes were reviewed and approved.	Action: April minutes approved.
Financials:	Total income was \$365,544. This was slightly less than budgeted but not of concern per Mike as expenses were less as well. Mike added that things have leveled off as they've synched-up with respect to benefit plans, etc. Year-to-date income was \$1,246,060 which was not far off from the targeted budget of \$1,325,278. Year-to-date net income was back "in the black" at \$51,291.	Action: April financial report approved.
	There were some questions and discussion regarding the budget. Pastor Tom and Mike addressed adding that part of Mike's role moving forward is to bring clarity and transparency to the entire process. Mike is looking at software that will make forecasting and reporting easier as well. Ann requested a cover/summary/highlights page moving forward. Mike gladly obliged.	
	Mike said that most of our expenses are made up of long term capital needs and salaries - "people and buildings". Reminded us that former mortgage budget is now being funneled to the LT Capital account. Significant capital improvements are needed at all three campuses. He is currently seeking bids for Oak Hill's roof, siding and windows.	
DISCUSSION TOPICS	DISCUSSION POINTS	ACTION ITEMS
Review of WLC Constitution LCMS Non-Approval Letter	Pastor Tom provided an overview of the document. Any changes require 2/3 congregational approval. Ann has documented what the District is not approving and what it requires. She is keeping a master document with comments, etc. and will create a red-line version. There appears to be confusion regarding the articles of incorporation. Ann will order for \$15 and review. Pastor Tom summarized some of the changes that were made in 2015.	
-Role of Elders -Elder Handbook -Service of Women in Congregational & Synodical Offices	We read through the "Conversation about the role of Elders at WLC" document. Discussed gamut of allowing women to formally become Elders to pulling in women to partner/assist. This was met with mixed response. Wade contends that we cannot maximize congregational care if we exclude women. Pastor Tom believes there is confusion surrounding the term "Elder" - who they are and what their role is/should be. All agreed it is important to have the recommendation(s) come from the Elders themselves. What do they see as challenges? What do they see as potential solutions? Sheryl suggested creating a visual with respect to our Care Ministry overall. All agreed. Will ask Pastor Tim to join a future Council meeting and provide an overview. Next steps: 1) pray about it 2) Pastor Tom and Wade will discuss with current Board of Elders at their next scheduled meeting 3) Have Pastor Tim present overview of Care Ministry at future Council meeting.	
	Constitution Review Summary/Next Steps: A motion was made and seconded to create a governance Ministry Action Team (MAT) to perform a granular review the constitution bylaws and policies. If deemed necessary/appropriate this team will propose recommendations to update/amend.	Action: Motion was made and seconded to create a Governance MAT to review/make recommendations regarding potential changes to constitution bylaws and policies.
Review of WLC Council/Board Policy Manual:	In the interest of time and priorities it was decided to table this topic/discussion until our June meeting.	
WLC Safety and Security	Mike provided an overview of the opportunities to improve the safety and security of those who utilize our buildings on a daily and routine basis. Highest risks as he sees it are the preschool followed by large events. Mike has talked with Chiefs of Security at two other large LCMS campuses as well as Sarah Mulso and has several recommendations to present for consideration. Examples include: put preschool behind locked doors, install ballistic glass, expand restroom facilities, create secure drop-off/pick-up location. Would approach in phases. Mike proposed that a Security MAT be created to review best practices and create/present formal recommendations. Group will be comprised of representatives from each campus and Council. Motion made and seconded to move forward. There was encouragement to move forward with phase one initiatives as soon as possible.	
INFORM TOPICS		
Sr. Pastor's Report/Dashboard	We did not have time to review Pastor Tom's report nor the Dashboard. Asked that we read/review.	
Misc. Discussion:	Will schedule a planning session prior to the next budget creation. Will shoot for September	
	Brainstormed regarding other topics we might want to add to future agendas. Ideas included becoming a "greener" church (less plastic, more recycling), multi-site readiness ("we are a sending place").	
Closing prayer	We closed in prayer.	
Closing	Meeting adjourned	Action: Motion made and passed to adjourn.