

**OSLC Church Council Meeting**  
**Saturday, November 18, 2017 – 7:58 a.m.**

**Council Present:** Steve Spayer, Mark Witt, Graham Brenna, Christine Robinson, Robyn Carlson, Laura Adeli, Susan Miller, Rick Lebeck, Glenn Wishnew, Ruth Nelson.

**Attendees:** Pr. John Gerike, Pr. Brian Wise, Pr. Emily Wiles, Dave Mevis (minutes)

**Devotions:** Robyn Carlson: Philippians 4:4-7 do not be anxious about anything...

**Approval of October 2017 Council Minutes** (with corrections noted):

Motion: Glenn Wishnew

Second: Ruth Nelson

Motion carried

**Violence in the Church:** Steve Spayer has been contacted by a couple of licensed, concealed-carry members offering their help and inquiring about OSLC's position on church shootings and guns in church. Council is unaware of the Synod's position on guns in church. Ideally churches would identify issues of human suffering in a way that violence is proactively pre-empted through God's caring, nurturing love experienced through us, rather than taking a reactive approach of waiting for violence to erupt and fighting back to suppress it. How do we convey to the church our deliberation on this matter? Must be other churches wrestling with this. Possible outreach to Naperville P.D., insurance companies, schools. NPD is approaching this as a mental health issue, not a gun violence issue. Good Shepherd is hosting a training on this. Steve Spayer to follow up with Graham Brenna on Christ Church training and follow up on Good Shepherd. Parking lot lighting is being addressed with the City. Prioritization of a key-card security system was again raised. Rick Lebeck mentioned surveillance cameras, which Christine Robinson noted is a topic of conversation on Property Committee. Additionally, usher training is being held on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Ushers are not security guards, but emergency response is discussed.

**Veteran's Day Recognition** – Men's Breakfast extensively and deeply recognized Veterans. It was a great, well-received program. Veterans were recognized in worship on a printed bulletin insert, but were not asked to stand, as they had been in previous years, while patriotic music played. A Veteran complained that Veterans were not properly recognized in worship. This veteran perceived a list of names on a sheet of paper provided during service as a slap in the face. In the future we need to engage our Veterans in advance to make sure we try to get close to the pulse of the community.

**Mozambique** – Christine Robinson and Pastor Brian reported they had a great trip. The Bishop traveled with them most of the time. We are shifting our approach in Mozambique to that of supporting Vida Humana through the Lutheran church in Chmoya, Mozambique, not directly. Our funds instead of going straight to Vida Humana, will flow through the Bishop, and ultimately still go 100% to Vida Humana, provided Vida Humana remains a mission of the church in Chmoya and is subject to an audit, and good corporate governance. If this works as hoped, we can take this model to other churches and show them there is a way to support Vida Humana with transparency and respect for the local church.

**Lutherans and Catholics in Dialogue** – We renewed our covenant with the archdiocese of Chicago. Vatican II stressed focusing on our commonalities, like social justice issues. Lutheran Social Services of Illinois is 150 years old, and Catholic Charities is 100 years old. This is something Lutherans and Catholics have had in common for over a century. Further, it encourages congregations locally to be in dialogue. There is an opportunity to bring this movement to Our Saviour's.

### Strategic Planning Process

1. Update – Statement of Identity. Statement of Purpose. Five Strategic Initiatives.
2. Working groups on initiatives with accountability and transparency back to Council. Participants were asked to choose an initiative that matched their interest. Council members are not well distributed amongst the Initiatives, so we want to get a Council member on each initiative to link these working groups back to Council. A third and final planning retreat will be held in January, then the consultant, Jim Pence will be done, but the Working Groups will continue. However, at this point participants will have the option to leave or change groups, and new people can join the Working Groups. The Council Liaisons by initiative will be:
  - Initiative A - Hospitality: Susan Miller
  - Initiative B – Disciples and Leaders: Steve Spayer
  - Initiative C – Glenn Wishnew
  - Initiative D – Laura Adeli
  - Initiative E – Ruth Nelson

Table Groups are to solidify the points underneath each Initiative by 12/14/17.

### Pulse Staff Survey – Pastor John reporting:

- (1) Increase spiritual vitality of the staff (Dec. 2017).
- (2) Improve supervisory skills of leaders, using Strength Finders 2.0 (Jan. 2018).
- (3) More specific understanding of roles of each staff person (Feb. 2018).

### Committee Reports

- **Finance** – October revenue: \$10k for lighting + \$23k general operating support = \$33k total + \$1K Debt Free To Be. Envelope giving was up \$20k. We will have \$19k in monthly debt service in 2018. We cannot add all of this to general operating budget. Proposal to add \$96k in annual interest into operating budget and pay principal through the Debt Free campaign.
- Tab for restricted accounts added to accounting system. There is a big account for the Celebration Chapel. How do we pull that in? That gift giver is open to hearing our ideas.
- The Building Repair reserve has a balance of \$491k against \$193k in project needs. Three projects on the horizon: 1) Painting the house at 17 Robin Hill, 2) flood clean-up \$33k + repairs estimated at \$40k estimate, less \$10k insurance settlement, so \$63k, and 3) Roofing.
- Refinancing – in July 2018 our proposed mortgage payment would drop from \$29k to \$19k. However we could structure the loan payment as high as \$23k, paying more principal and less interest, or as low as \$15k if that's all we could afford.
- **Human Resources** – Strengths training in January. Haven't received our medical insurance bill due December 1 and don't know what the new rate will be. Increase of 10-20% expected (Rick). Need to address who oversees staff Finance Team.
- **Property** – West Wall repairs happening in November. Roof inspected and not as bad as feared, but there is work needed which will be done. Selling van. Estimate of \$20k just to inspect Bell Tower. Decided not to do that. Consideration of just taking it down, which also is not cheap. New structural engineer on property committee going to start looking a few things. Christine Robinson encouraged all to review Property Committee minutes in Dropbox.
- **Mission** – We received \$8,650 for World Relief, and \$4,702 for World Hunger, and have committed \$10k match per item. Mission Committee approved update to charge document to include benevolences. Looking at what is Missions and what is a Benevolence. Two people on Missions are taking on that role.

- **Memorial** – no report
- **Endowment** – no report
- **Stewardship** – no report
- **Christian Education** – Forming a team to work on the Faith Formation vacancy. Dave Hamman is leading the search. Jennifer Penny is on the team. The evaluation is ongoing. It is looking like we are going to need a Youth Director, not a “Youth and Family Director.” Our survey shows that families like the new physical flow of Sunday School, and children’s ability to communicate what they learned.
- **Constitutional Review** – No comments yet received. Need to check with Synod about changing from Congregation Council to Church Council.
- **Nominating** – November 22 deadline. November 27<sup>th</sup> meeting to begin considering candidates. Finance Committee has two openings (Neil Springer is leaving the committee). Christine Robinson is helping to publicize via Connections.

#### ACTION ITEMS

**Giving Tuesday** – Where should this fit in the context of the church? Flood Damage? Consider precedent. Jean Jepson is looking for direction. Council supported a Giving Tuesday appeal for repairing the flood damage in the basement at Celebration.

Motion: Graham Brenna

Second: Ruth Nelson

Motion carried

**Parking Agreement** – Steve Spayer, Jen Sevaton, and Rick Lebeck were approved to work on parking lot agreement with Edward Hospital.

Motion: Steve Spayer

Second: Susan Miller

Motion carried

**A motion made to approve \$20k in matching funds for World Relief and World Hunger.**

Motion: Graham Brenna

Second: Ruth Nelson

Motion carried

#### Unfinished business

ACS – 1) ACS & Realm: which one fits us right now? Finance key factor. 2) ELCA doing pilot project with Realm and going to update us in December. Realm is cheaper but doesn’t have full finance module.

**Council Adjourned:** 10:06 AM

**Next Council Meeting:** December 16, 2017, 8:00 a.m.

Notes respectfully submitted by Dave Mevis