

OSLC Church Council Meeting

June 16, 2018, 8:00 am

Council members present: Brett Lindberg, Susan Miller, Ruth Nelson, Steve Spayer, Glenn Wishnew, Mark Witt

Absent: Laura Adeli, Graham Brenna, Robyn Carlson, Pr. John Gerike, Rick Lebeck, Pr. Brian Wise

Attendees: Pr. Emily Wiles

Recorder: Rebecca Cremin

1. Opening Prayer/Devotion

Brett reflected on Father's Day and faithful fathers.

2. Action Items

Motion to approve the May Council meeting minutes: Ruth Nelson

Second: Susan Miller

Motion carried

On June 22nd Council voted by email to approve a \$100k payment toward the church's debt, with \$50k coming from the Celebration Children's Center rent and \$50k coming from Edward Hospital parking lot rent.

3. Discussion Topics

- The forums were lightly attended but went well overall. The four presentations to the congregation that the Finance Committee is planning throughout the year will be useful in continuing to bring transparency to the church's finances.
- Synod Assembly took place June 8-9. Memorials and resolutions passed by the Assembly included statements of support to examine the ELCA's social statement on gun violence, endorse the Poor People's Campaign, and support a statement about the protection of Palestinian children. A new bishop will be elected at next year's assembly.
- The mega garage sale brought in \$45k in sales. Communication and support were improved this year, and clean up went quickly and smoothly.
- A Realm team from OSLC visited Ascension Lutheran Church in Northfield to see how they use Realm and hear some best practices. The team came back with some new ideas to implement at OSLC.

4. Strategic Planning

Realm

- Preparations for the finance implementation are underway. A trainer will come in for a day to help the team get ready for the transition, which is expected to happen at the end of July.
- 404 people have signed up for Realm to date. They expect that fall registrations will encourage additional sign ups.
- Ruth and Jim Bono would like to present some of the administration features to Council at the August meeting.
- Mini training sessions for groups would be useful to show why using Realm to manage communications instead of relying on email or texts could be beneficial.

Project management tool: Steve is reviewing the tool with Jennifer Penny.

Initiatives updates:

- **Equipping Disciples (Steve):** group is working with Virginia Bono to identify a tool that will work for the group since the tool they initially thought would work turned out not to be suitable for what they needed. Pastor Emily and Pastor Brian are talking with SamaraCare about how they might proceed with them.
- **Hospitality (Susan):** The group is thinking about how to extend coffee hour hosting to various ministry groups to help them spread the word about who they are and what they do. They are also discussing ways to reach out to new people and also would like to try to talk to people who leave the church to find out why they left.
- **Worship (Glenn):** Kathy Ewald has been doing a great job leading this initiative. They have identified three goals:
 - Relationships (underway)
 - Special worship experiences and how service might be tied to the worship experience (in the planning stage)
 - Defining what a worship experience is (planned for fall)
- **Faith and Community (Pastor Emily):** The group is developing a master calendar to track events and meetings from all areas throughout the year. They can share events with the Communications team for distribution to the congregation. They are pulling in lay leaders for congregational care and building a team to oversee the vision for missions.

The Human Resources Committee is requesting that all initiative groups provide a suggested measurable goal for staff that can be used in the goal setting and evaluation process.

5. **Generative Question:** Where are we on strategic initiatives? What do members know? What else needs to be communicated?

The first step was to start the Weekly Connections blurbs that rotate through the initiatives. The next step will be updates on what has happened so far for each initiative. The project management tool will be helpful for communication and keeping momentum going. A joint meeting for all groups would be useful to share the status of projects across all initiative groups.

6. Reports

Finance Committee

- The finance report will be available June 21.

Human Resources (Ruth Nelson)

- Greg Nasman has accepted the permanent Facilities Management position. He will oversee contracts, operations, and maintenance for both campuses.
- The Youth Director position is still open. The committee will continue to review applications as they come in.
- Steve was approached by a couple of people asking if the Council is addressing succession planning in light of Pastor Al and John Beed's retirements. Communicating what the plans are will help make the process more transparent. Pastor John also wrote an article for the summer Quarterly Connections that addresses staff transitions.

Property (Mark Witt)

- Organ cleaning is underway.
- Parking lot sealing and striping and the concrete repairs are being scheduled.

- Evaluation of the roof repairs is underway.
- The RFP for the bell tower repairs should be sent out in a couple of weeks. Work will likely commence in August.
- Bob Turnquist has organized a small group of volunteers to do minor repairs across campus.
- New flooring is on hold until 2019.
- The sign committee hopes to have a recommendation for a new sign for Washington Street by the fall.

Mission & Benevolence

No report

Memorial

No report

Endowment (Susan Miller)

The committee met with a representative from InFaith to explore using their services. With a minimum endowment balance of \$25k InFaith provides marketing resources to help increase awareness of endowments for estate planning. They charge a 1% administrative fee. The committee is discussing whether or not OSLC should move forward with contracting with InFaith and plans on making a recommendation soon.

Stewardship (Glenn Wishnew)

- Pastor John and Steve Spayer met with the committee to discuss the fall stewardship campaign. Lane Lewis will lead the fall campaign as the church transitions out of the Debt Free to Be campaign, and they will look for a new leader for 2019. The goal for 2018 is an increase of 20% in planned giving. The committee will talk to small groups in July and August about the benefits of giving, and small teams will make some targeted one-on-one visits with members. It was suggested that as part of the fall campaign, a goal of increasing giving units be added to the planned giving percentage increase goal.
- The committee is requesting that Council review the funding priorities proposal with a goal of paying off all of the church's debt in 12 years.
- Because of the close alignment between the two committees, a liaison from the Finance Committee will begin regularly attending Stewardship Committee meetings.
- A new Council liaison will need to be appointed since the current liaison is rolling off the committee.

Christian Education

No report

Constitutional Review

No report

Nominating

No report

7. Next Meeting

July 21; opening devotion: Mark Witt

8. Meeting adjourned at 9:45.