

OSLC Church Council Meeting

January 27, 2018, 8:00 am

Council members present: Laura Adeli, Graham Brenna, Robyn Carlson, Brett Linberg, Susan Miller, Ruth Nelson, Steve Spayer, Glenn Wishnew, Mark Witt

Absent: None

Attendees: Pr. John Gerike, Pr. Emily Wiles, Pr. Brian Wise, Rick Lebeck,

Recorder: Rebecca Cremin

1. Opening Prayer/Devotion

Steve Spayer led a devotion about dealing with change and asked everyone to introduce themselves and describe how they manage and react to change.

2. Introduction of New Members

New Council member Brett Lindberg and new recorder Rebecca Cremin were welcomed.

3. Approval of December 2017 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion: Graham Brenna

Second: Ruth Nelson

Motion carried.

4. Election & Committee Assignments

Council members were elected to the following executive positions and assigned as liaisons to the following committees:

Chair: Steve Spayer

Vice Chair: Glenn Wishnew

Secretary: Susan Miller

Treasurer: Rick Lebeck

Committee liaison assignments:

Human Resources: Ruth Nelson

Finance: Robyn Carlson

Mission: No liaison since Robyn and Graham are on the committee

Property: Mark Witt

Memorial: Mark Witt

Endowment: Susan Miller

Stewardship: Glenn Wishnew

Christian Ed: Brett Lindberg

Nominating: Glenn Wishnew

5. Strategic Planning

Consultant Jim Pence has submitted his report on the strategic planning process as well as the working draft of the 2018-2020 strategic plan. Five initiatives have emerged from the process:

- Focus on growth and intentional hospitality
- Equip and develop disciples and leaders
- Enhance passionate and engaged worship for deeper spirituality

- Focus and coordinate approaches to missions, faith formation and congregational care
- Improve operations for greater transparency, efficiency and communication

Each initiative will have an implementation team that will include among its members a team leader, Council liaison, and staff member. Jennifer Penny will act as a project manager in implementing the plan. Council liaisons for the initiatives are:

- Hospitality: Susan Miller
- Leadership: Steve Spayer
- Worship: Glen Wishnew
- Faith formation: Laura Adeli
- Operations: Ruth Nelson

Next steps include planning a mission fair for March 11 that will offer an opportunity for congregation members to meet representatives from all implementation teams and learn what the needs are for the teams.

Motion to accept the working draft #6 as a starting point for the strategic plan (recognizing that as it is a draft, it will change).

Motion: Ruth Nelson
 Second: Graham Brenna
 Motion carried.

6. **Reports**

Finance (Rick Lebeck)

Offering income was up \$92k in December due in part to the tax benefits of donating in 2017. The committee has added two new members and is looking for one more. The committee endorses adopting REALM for accounting. They are developing a dashboard to provide more information to the congregation about where the church's money is being spent. The hospital parking contract has been renegotiated to bring in \$10k/month. The committee will make a recommendation about how to allocate the money.

Motion to release a \$54k donation to the Slovakia fund (it is over the executive committee threshold).

Motion: Graham Brenna
 Second: Ruth Nelson
 Motion carried.

Human Resources (Ruth Nelson)

A strengths training workshop for staff was held this week. The committee is reviewing the Children's Center handbook to ensure that it is in alignment with other church documents. The church contracted with United Healthcare for staff medical coverage. The committee is working with other key players to document finance workflow to ensure that proper safeguards and efficiencies are in place.

OSLC has the opportunity to be a pilot site for Realm for the church's computer system. As a pilot site, we will have strong support from the ELCA in implementing and supporting the system. Realm, from ACS (the church's current system provider), is a cloud-based product that offers more customization than our current system and is more user-friendly. Implementation is expected in April.

Motion to adopt Realm as OSLC's computer system with ELCA support.

Motion: Ruth Nelson

Second: Susan Miller

Motion carried.

Property and Casualty Insurance (Ruth Nelson)

The committee is recommending that the church move to a new agent and carrier for property insurance. The new policy will include three additions:

- Cyber coverage
- \$1M additional coverage for directors and officers
- Employee dishonesty coverage

The cost for the new policy is the same as the current policy. They also recommend a formal assessment of the church's assets to ensure proper valuation.

Motion to move forward with the Esser Hayes insurance proposal and charge the Property & Casualty Committee with the property assessment.

Motion: Ruth Nelson

Second: Brett Lindberg

Motion carried.

The church's current insurer has denied the claim from the Celebration flood damage. Bill Wentz, Scott Day, and Dan Zollner, who have legal and insurance expertise, reviewed the policy and Illinois case law and believe the damage should be covered. Since the insurer is refusing to reconsider its response to the claim, the recommended path forward is to file a lawsuit. The expectation is that the lawsuit will reopen the conversation and the parties will reach a settlement.

Motion to proceed with a recommendation to file a lawsuit and granting Bill Wentz, Dan Zollner, and Scott Day the authority to represent the church in the lawsuit.

Motion: Ruth Nelson

Second: Glenn Wishnew

Motion carried.

The attorneys are offering their services pro bono. Steve Spayer will draft a statement about the situation to share with the congregation.

Property (Mark Witt)

The bell tower can be repaired. They expect estimates by April. They are planning a full property assessment to aid in budgeting and planning. The new parking lot lighting should be installed within 30 days. They are determining the scope and cost of the roof project. Greg Nasman has been hired through June as a part-time maintenance coordinator to organize maintenance records and manage projects.

Missions and Benevolence (Graham Brenna)

The committee has added benevolence to its role and is working to define the difference between missions and benevolence. A decision will be made by March 1 about whether or not the garage sale will happen this year. The church received 152 Thrivent action grants in 2017 totaling \$38k.

Memorial (Mark Witt)

They are investigating a designated gifts process and evaluating if it's time to start planning for a third columbarium.

Endowment (Susan Miller)

The committee is thinking about how to market endowments and raise awareness that endowment is about future giving, not giving now. They will work with the Stewardship Committee on raising awareness.

Stewardship (Glenn Wishnew)

The committee is planning for an April announcement about the debt free campaign as it nears its end.

Christian Ed (Pastor Emily)

The Youth Director position should be posted soon. The Vacation Bible School Coordinator position is posted now.

Constitutional Review

No report

Nominating Committee

No report

Pastor John

The van is being sold with no plan to replace it at this point. SamaraCare is using offices at Celebration for the time being. Attendance for 2017 was up by 25 people a week, from 727 to 752.

7. **Next Meeting**

February 10: Men's Breakfast. There is a half hour on the agenda for a Q&A with Council.

February 17: Next Council meeting. Ruth Nelson will do the opening devotion.

8. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rebecca Cremin