

## **OSLC Church Council Meeting**

**February 17, 2018, 8:00 am**

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

**Absent:** Pr. Brian Wise

**Attendees:** Pr. John Gerike, Pr. Emily Wiles, Rick Lebeck

**Recorder:** Rebecca Cremin

### **1. Opening Prayer/Devotion**

Ruth Nelson shared the story of Dietrich Bonhoffer and his friends the Niemeiers who tried to protect him during the war.

### **2. New Members**

The list of new members for December-February was presented.

Motion to approve the new members: Graham Brenna

Second: Laura Adeli

Motion carried

### **3. Review of Meeting Minutes**

- Motion to accept December 2017 Council minutes revised to reflect Council nominees: Glenn Wishnew

Second: Robyn Carlson

Motion carried

- Motion to approve January 2018 Council Minutes: Brett Lindberg

Second: Laura Adeli

Motion carried

Two items were voted on through email:

- On January 29<sup>th</sup>: Transfer of \$39,826 raised from the Slovakia dinner to the Slovakia Mission fund.

Motion carried

- On February 11<sup>th</sup>: Transfer of \$25,612 to purchase airline tickets for the upcoming Slovakia trip.

Motion carried

### **4. Strategic Planning**

Jennifer Penny is looking at the strategic plan and beginning to refine it and make specific implementation plans for the initiatives. She is developing a planning calendar and PowerPoint presentation that will help explain the process. She would be happy to meet with each Council member to show them how to use the planning tools and review documents the groups are preparing. The final document will probably not be ready until closer to the annual meeting, but the draft document can be used for planning purposes now. A piece outlining the five initiatives will appear in next week's Connections.

The congregational engagement party is being planned for the weekend of March 10-11 in Luther Court at main campus and March 18 at Celebration, due to conflict at Celebration the previous weekend. Each initiative team should have a three-person leadership team made up of a staff member, a Council member, and a lay leader. The lay leader ideally will be the point person for the group. Council members can help mentor the lay leaders. Initiative groups should hold a planning meeting to lay out what their initiative is trying to accomplish, outline where volunteers can plug in, develop any needed materials, and determine staffing for the tables. Initiative groups can reevaluate their plans after the engagement party based on feedback from the weekend. The annual meeting will focus on the strategic plan.

## 5. **Realm Update**

The people portion of the system (the non-finance piece) is slated for implementation April 16<sup>th</sup>. While it isn't necessary to have an email address to be identified in the system, anyone with an email will need a unique address; it will not be possible to share an email address. It was suggested that as a workaround in cases where family members generally share an email account, one person could use the existing account while additional people could open a new account and forward it to the existing account, thereby meeting system requirements without having to constantly check a separate account. Ruth will check to see how children and teen accounts are managed in Realm. Training sessions are tentatively being scheduled for the weekend after implementation, and online videos are available for anyone needing a tutorial.

Between now and the implementation, data is being cleaned up as much as possible. Volunteers are being identified to help with the data clean up and migration. One of the first things to happen after implementation will be to populate groups to encourage group members as early adopters. Leaders can forward their distribution lists to Charlie, identifying the ministry area, team name, leader name, and participants. Ruth Nelson, Jean Jepson, and Jim Bono are on the steering committee and are working to make the transition as smooth as possible. Pastor John noted that it would be wise to grant access to a couple of additional people who can see the giving areas since only he and Jen Sevaton currently have access.

The entire system should be implemented by the start of the new fiscal year, July 1<sup>st</sup>.

## 6. **Reports**

### **Finance Report** (Rick Lebeck)

- 15 giving units gave their entire 2018 donation (totaling \$74k) in December 2017. February giving is up so far and is on track to make up for January's lower giving.
- They will have a template at the next meeting of a congregational insert with committee updates that will accompany Lane Lewis's debt free wrap up.
- They are working with BMO to increase rate funds.
- They are working to consolidate accounts (from the current 8 to 3), moving some accounts from operating to restricted funds as "designated funds," where they functionally should reside.
- Holly McKinnon is investigating the cost of adding a new columbarium bank.
- They are developing a spreadsheet for memorials that will detail the original intent and identify a point person in the church who is handling that memorial.
- The committee is recommending using \$1k of the income from the parking lot lease for lot maintenance and using the rest for operating expenses or debt payment.
- They are getting quotes to have an audit at the end for the year.

- They are still looking for two members and will work with the Nominating Committee to fill those vacancies. The call for volunteers should go into Weekly Connections.

**Human Resources** (Ruth Nelson)

The finance review is almost done. They are working with the Finance Committee to tap their expertise on efficiencies, separation of duties, back-ups, etc. They are also reviewing the Children's Center Handbook to ensure it is aligned with OSLC's overall policy where there is crossover.

**Property** (Mark Witt)

The extent of the water issues on the roof is being explored. If the repair estimates exceed existing funds, they will need to figure out where the money for those repairs will come from. Ideally, the request for funds would go to the congregation as part of the budget at the annual meeting with work being done over the summer. They are also developing a formal review and maintenance schedule, looking at lighting, and hoping to have key card access in place before July 1.

**Missions & Benevolence** (Graham Brenna)

- Evaluations will be done by the end of Q2.
- Graham and Pastor Brian went to Haiti earlier in the month in part to evaluate how it would fit as a future mission of OSLC. Praying Pelicans, which has led our mission trips, provides a good route of access into the country with their extensive knowledge of the area. With the commitment to Slovakia likely wrapping up in a few years, there may be an opportunity to become more involved in Haiti, although it isn't clear yet how extensive our commitment there would be. The committee would also like to have more feedback from the congregation about where it would like to see missions focused, hopefully leading to a broader base of support for missions.
- There is no decision yet on the garage sale.
- They are working on something for the engagement party that will show the process and structure of OSLC's missions and provide a clear picture of what the church supports.

**Memorial** (Mark Witt)

The committee is working on a summary spreadsheet of all memorials.

**Endowment** (Susan Miller)

No report.

**Stewardship** (Glenn Wishnew)

No report.

**Christian Ed** (Pastor Emily)

The Youth Director position is posted as is the VBS Coordinator position.

**Constitutional Review**

They hope to have revisions ready for the annual meeting. The revisions are editorial in nature to clean up and clarify some language.

**Nominating Committee** (Glenn Wishnew)

No report.

7. **Streamlining Committee Reports**

Pastor John is suggesting looking at ways to shorten the committee reports at Council meetings to allow more time for generative discussion of some broader, bigger questions.

8. **Celebration Flood Damage**

Neither Steve nor the pastors have received any new feedback from congregation members about the decision to move forward with a lawsuit to recoup repair costs at Celebration. Bishop Miller also expressed no concerns with the plan.

9. **Next Meeting**

March 10 & 11: Engagement Party at main campus

March 17: Opening devotion – Glenn

March 18: Engagement Party at Celebration

10. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rebecca Cremin