

## **OSLC Church Council Meeting**

**February 16, 2019 8:00 am**

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

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

**Recorder:** Rebecca Cremin

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

Ruth led the devotion on the Priestly Blessing (May the Lord bless you and keep you...), which is found in Numbers 6. Often used in Christian churches as the benediction, it is also used in the Jewish tradition.

### **2. Action Items**

Motion to approve the January 2019 Council meeting minutes: Graham Brenna

Second: Ruth Nelson

Motion carried

Motion to accept the new member report: Brett Lindberg

Second: Susan Miller

Motion carried

### **3. Discussion Topics**

#### **a. Council Elections Vote Format**

In 2013, ballots for Council elections changed from voting for individual nominees to voting for a slate of nominees. It isn't clear why this format change was made. To enhance transparency in the voting process, the ballot will revert to having people vote for individuals. Council members will staff the voting table and should instruct voting members about the change and remind them to vote for individual Council candidates. The next vote will take place the weekend of February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **b. Stewardship**

The results of the fall stewardship drive haven't been shared fully with the congregation yet, but that should ideally happen in the next couple of weeks. The total number pledges was up as was the amount pledged, and there were a number of new pledges.

Motion to communicate to the congregation the \$100k increase in pledges for 2019 and allocate it as was previously decided in Council: Steve Spayer

Second: Graham Brenna

Motion passed

#### **c. Operational Changes: Finance Transition**

Council met in executive session.

#### **d. 2019/2020 Budget Preparation**

The Finance Committee is meeting February 26<sup>th</sup> to continue to work on the budget. Some items they are working through include: Children's Center; Missions & Benevolences requests; the optimal size of the operations reserve; and finalizing three potential operations models.

**e. Strategic Planning Update**

Initiative leaders met on February 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss progress on the strategic initiatives. While the leaders think they are on track with their initiatives, there is a need to communicate the progress being made to the congregation to show the impact the initiatives are having in the community. A mini retreat would be useful to reevaluate goals and measurements now that we're a year into the process with a recognition that progress will happen at different speeds for different groups.

**f. Council Retreat**

Council will hold a half day retreat on April 6<sup>th</sup> from 8 am-12 pm. The location and agenda are TBA.

**g. Synod Assembly**

OSLC can send five representatives to Synod Assembly in June. Forums will be held throughout the synod ahead of the assembly to hear from candidates for Bishop, and delegates should be willing to attend at least one of the forums to learn about the candidates. Delegates should be approved by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**h. Realm Dashboard Metrics**

A number of metrics are available in Realm. Attendance at services would be one metric to watch. There is an attendance tracker that could prove useful for small groups once some of the glitches in the system have been fixed.

**i. Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting will be held June 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Forums will take place the week before the meeting.

**4. Generative Question**

There was no discussion on this item.

**5. Committee Reports**

**Search Committee** (Pastor Emily):

- The Director of Worship and Arts job description is being finalized. The position will be opened to internal candidates first and then to the external market. It should be posted soon.

**Finance** (Rick Lebeck):

- Envelope giving is up so far in February after being down in January.
- The Finance spreadsheet has been updated with new tabs that show giving methods and activity in the Frutchey account from its inception.
- The accounts with Wintrust are being set up. The committee hopes to start transferring money into the new accounts this week and anticipates that the transition will be complete in about three months. They will be trained on the check scanner on Wednesday.
- The new counting procedures will require three people each week, two to count the general offering and one for special accounts.
- The giving kiosk needs to be secure. Graham will work with Jean Jepson or Greg Nasman on options to replace the current kiosk.
- The committee is preparing a handout on envelope giving for an upcoming Weekly Connections or Quarterly Connections.
- Rick distributed a cash uses worksheet that shows accounts with large cash balances and a proposal to liquidate the excess in the debt fund while leaving a \$90k cushion. There is more clarity now in the church's finances so the committee is comfortable spending some of the excess while leaving an appropriate cushion.

Motion to pay \$151,592 from the debt fund to Thrivent as debt principal: Graham Brenna  
Second: Ruth Nelson  
Motion passed

**Human Resources:**

No report

**Property** (Brett Lindberg):

- Final drawings for the OSLC sign on Washington St. have been received. The total cost will be \$13,500. Moving the cross that's near the sign is under discussion.
- They are discussing HVAC implications of the roof K overlay. They expect the work to start this summer. Roof J is scheduled to be repaired in 2020.
- They are talking with the Children's Center to align which repairs the Children's Center is responsible for and which should be handled by the church.

**Mission & Benevolence** (Graham Brenna):

- Graham has added committee minutes online in the Council folder.
- Christine Robinson will be serving as treasurer.
- They are updating the mission catalog.
- They transferred \$20k that was allocated to Urban Acacia a few years ago to the general operating fund since it was allocated after Urban Acacia's final year. They are reducing their base fund balance from \$40k to \$10k and are working on how to allocate the \$30k.

**Endowment:**

- No report

**Faith Formation** (Pastor Emily):

- A Children's Coordinator is being hired. She will start on March 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The Haiti trip was put on hold due to unrest in Haiti. It is unclear if or when it will be rescheduled.

**Memorial** (Pastor John):

- Funds to purchase 150 ELW hymnals for OSLC and Celebration were designated.

**Stewardship:**

- No report

**6. Unfinished Business**

No discussion

**7. Next Meeting**

- March 16 at 8 am; opening devotion: Glenn Wishnew
- Council will host the March 20<sup>th</sup> Lenten supper, including preparing and serving the meal.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rebecca Cremin