

## OSLC Church Council Meeting

January 12, 2019 9:15 am

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

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

**Recorder:** Rebecca Cremin

### 1. Opening Prayer/Devotion

Steve led the devotion focusing on the new year and the church's focus on mission this year. He reflected on the show *God Friended Me* and how it demonstrates that God sends people to help other people. We should be open to allowing God to use us in mission work.

### 2. Action Items

Motion to approve the amended December 2018 Council meeting minutes: Graham Brenna

Second: Glenn Wishnew

Motion carried

Changes to the minutes include the addition of Matthew Felbein and Sue Moninger to the Worship and Arts Director search committee.

### 3. Discussion Topics

#### a. Christmas Mailing to Council Members

Council members received an anonymous mailed letter before Christmas urging that one of the pastors be recalled. No specific concerns were indicated in the letter. Council will not respond to the letter because it does not acknowledge anonymous communications.

#### b. Anti-Abortion Activism Response

An anti-abortion activist who was protesting at the doors of Celebration on Christmas Eve was removed by Naperville Police. He is part of a group that routinely protests at Naperville churches and disrupts worship services. It is expected that he or another member of the group will return to OSLC at some point in the future. Pastor Brian will share a photo of the protestor with church and hospitality staff. If he or another protestor returns to OSLC, a staff member or someone from hospitality should call 911 immediately to have them removed. They should not engage with the protestor.

#### c. Operational Changes

##### i. Offering Procedures

New counting procedures started last week. Members of the Finance Committee are shadowing the counters to learn the current procedures and will recruit and train new counters as they transition to the new procedures. The new procedures will be more streamlined than the current system and will include creating a weekly giving CSV file that Jen Sevaton can load instead of having to manually enter the numbers.

##### ii. New Banking Relationship

The transition to Wintrust is moving ahead smoothly. Signature cards are in process and a check scanner is on order. Electronic giving will transition seamlessly without givers having to do anything.

**d. Worship & Arts Director Search**

The search committee has been formed and will have its first meeting tomorrow. They will meet on January 26<sup>th</sup> for EQ training. Robyn is the Council liaison to the search committee.

**e. New Council Members**

The Nominating Committee has forwarded five or six candidate names for open Council seats. There is a higher representation on the list from Celebration than from OSLC campus. Each Council member is asked to recommend an additional two candidates to Steve this week, focusing especially on skills that are needed on Council. Steve will work with Pastor John to select final candidates from Council and Nominating Committee's recommendations.

**f. Council Liaisons**

Committee liaisons for next year were reviewed:

- Human Resources: Ruth
- Finance: Robyn (she will also be a voting member of the committee)
- Property: Brett
- Mission & Benevolence: Graham
- Memorials: Glenn
- Stewardship: Steve
- Christian Education: Brett
- Endowments: Susan
- Nominating: Glenn

It was suggested that a new liaison be added for Outreach to work with the Children's Center, missions, and Celebration activities. This responsibility will fall to a new Council member.

**g. Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting will likely be held on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**4. Generative Question: What can we do (individually or as a group) to raise the visibility of our pastors within our community? How can we raise the visibility of our missions in the broader community? How do we "lead by example" to encourage others to come and see?**

Council should think about how it can help keep the congregation informed about what the pastors are doing and educate them on the role of the pastors. Ideally, groups within the church should feel empowered to function with the support of the pastors but without a constant pastoral presence. As they plan events, they should work with pastors to establish the level of pastoral support they are looking for and the best time for pastoral presence at their event. A Mutual Ministry committee would be helpful in supporting the pastors and working with them on growth goals as well as working with members to clarify pastoral roles and responsibilities.

**5. Committee Reports**

**Finance** (Robyn Carlson):

- Envelope giving, debt, and operating revenue were all up vs. budget in December.
- YTD envelope giving is down, but debt giving and operating revenue are up.
- Rick is investigating if the surplus is from 2019 pledge giving or not.
- Debt is at \$1.465M. It will be paid off in five years with regular payments.

**Human Resources:**

No report

**Property (Brett Lindberg):**

- The bell tower work is finished. When it is lit, a cross in the brickwork is visible.
- They are investigating a leak over the piano in the sanctuary.
- They are looking into whether or not a tree near the cross out front should be removed.
- They are working on a budget to complete HVAC replacement. The estimate for roof repairs is \$200k so they are balancing the costs of these two projects.
- The design for the LED-lit OSLC campus sign has been received from Doyle and will come to Council for a vote when it is finalized. Total cost of the proposal is be \$12k, which will be covered by the Fruchey fund. Electrical for the sign will be an additional cost. It should be installed in March. They are looking into moving the cross that is near the sign closer to the church and will confirm placement with the city. They will work with the Garden Committee on planting around the sign.

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

- Christine Robinson is joining the committee and will likely serve as treasurer.
- They are planning for the upcoming Slovakia dinner and Feed My Starving Children in February.

**Endowment (Susan Miller):**

- The distributions were made as voted on at an earlier Council meeting.
- There will be two committee openings in June. They will work with the Nominating Committee to find candidates.

**Christian Education (Pastor Emily):**

- They are working on finding an interim Children's Coordinator since the position hasn't been permanently filled.
- Scott Peterson is working on finding point people for specific faith formation committee roles.

**Memorial (Pastor Brian):**

- The curtains for the chapel space at Celebration were installed and will be blessed this week.
- They are forming a team for the lobby space conversion to ensure the reconfigured space will work for all the different groups and events that happen there.
- 50 new chairs for the education wing are coming. There is money available for an additional 50 chairs.

**Stewardship (Pastor John):**

- 309 estimates of giving were received. They show an overall increase in giving. Rick is working to determine the exact amount of the increase and how best to communicate the numbers.

**6. Unfinished Business**

No discussion.

**7. Next Meeting**

February 16 at 8 am; opening devotion: Ruth Nelson

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rebecca Cremin