

OSLC Church Council Meeting

October 27, 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

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

Recorder: Rebecca Cremin

1. Opening Prayer/Devotion

Robyn led the devotion on the three holidays/commemorations that occur on sequential days: Halloween, All Saints' Day, and Day of the Dead. They all celebrate or remember the dead in different ways.

2. Action Items

Motion to approve the September Council meeting minutes: Graham Brenna

Second: Glenn Wishnew

Motion carried

The membership roster in Realm is continuing to be updated as new reports are generated.

3. Discussion Topics

- Realm

Now that Realm has been successfully implemented, it's time to get it more fully integrated into the work of the church. Andrea Field demonstrated some of the ways Realm can be used as a strategic and communications tool.

Events can be set up to inform people about activities and invite them to attend. They can include RSVPs and list items needed for events; they can also include registration forms. Group leaders can embed photos and YouTube video links into their posts. They can be customized to be visible to the whole church or only to specific groups.

The level of information users can see and what they can post varies by their role as a participant, group leader, or administrator. These settings allow for target marketing to specific groups and review of attendance statistics.

The Realm team will be discussing training moving forward for users and leaders. Another priority is improving the quality of the data.

- Worship & Arts Director

Nominations for search committee members will be accepted through November 4th. A number of names have been submitted, most of them choir members. It would be ideal to have participation from other areas of the congregation as well. Glenn will work with the Nominating Committee on parameters for the make-up of the search committee.

- Stewardship

Council members reported on their visits to small groups over the last month to present the goals of the fall stewardship drive. Overall, there was a positive response to the campaign, good questions asked, and interest in Realm giving. About 100 estimated giving cards have been returned so far. Around 300 were turned in last year. We need to wait until the end of the year to get an accurate snapshot of where we are compared to last year in terms of planned giving.

There are some kinks in the system to track pledges in Realm since if people update their giving in Realm it isn't tracked as a pledge.

- Finance Update

There have been a couple of positive responses to the finance update that appeared in Quarterly Connections. The congregation should be reminded that the report is there. Some of the information could also appear in Weekly Connections to make sure more people see it.

- Participation on Council Next Year

There are five Council members whose term is expiring at the end of this year. Laura Adeli and Mark Witt indicated that they intend to roll off Council to work in other areas, and Robyn Carlson, Ruth Nelson, and Glenn Wishnew intend to remain on Council. The Nominating Committee will be involved in recruiting candidates to fill the open positions.

4. Strategic Planning: Status Updates

- Hospitality: Susan reported that teams are in place, although they could still use more volunteers. They have created a visitor gift. Small groups are hosting coffee hours this year. They are working on developing a mechanism to ask people who transfer why they left the church. Pastor Brian will be the liaison to the team once Lynn retires.
- Preparing Disciples and Leaders: Steve reported that they are evaluating the ELCA's tool for assessing spiritual gifts. Jennifer Penny is mapping the infrastructure to use the results to plug people into appropriate places.
- Worship: Glenn reported that they are working to enhance relationship opportunities and connect mission opportunities to worship. They are also working on enhancing the worship experience and talking about how to make sure that worship isn't intimidating to people who are unchurched.
- Faith and Community: Laura reported that they are working to align the global calendar. They are also working on instructions and procedures for requests to use spaces in the church.
- Operations: Ruth reported that their work is continuing well.

5. Generative Question: Communication: As we increase transparency how do we ensure members see the information? As more things change, how do we ensure members are kept in the loop? How do we increase member engagement to incent them to seek out the information?

- While we want transparency, we also want to be sure the message is getting through. It's important to use multiple channels for messages to reach different user types. Pastor John recommended using planned redundancy with personal interaction. It might also be helpful to start a new group that would support the Communications Team.

6. Committee Reports

Finance (Rick Lebeck)

- September was a soft month. Envelope giving was down but debt reduction was up.
- October envelope giving is down to date.
- They are working with Realm to pull giving data.
- The next finance presentation to the congregation will be in January. It will outline building repairs. They will also begin the budgeting process in January.
- The review is almost over.

- Mike Graveline has continued talking to banks for the church's accounts. Wintrust will do a presentation to the committee next month.
- Sam Petras is working on the healthcare coverage renewal for next year.
- They met with Lynn to understand how the youth accounts are used. They will make a recommendation that a separate Eagles Wings account be created that will act like a savings account.
- Camps (VBS, Fine Arts, etc.) will move out of the operating budget.
- The unified fund will be renamed the operating fund.
- A new budget line will be added for reserves to start bringing reserves to the ELCA's recommended level of 1/3 of the total operating budget.

Human Resources

- No report

Property (Mark Witt)

- They will have a presentation at Council in November.
- The bell tower work should be completed in November.
- The sign committee likes the proposed designs. They are working with one vendor to modify the design and will make the plans available once they are more solidified. Most of the costs will be covered from the Memorial fund and property budget. The project may start in February.

Mission & Benevolence (Graham Brenna)

- The committee welcomed two new members: Zack Pradel and Christine Stephens.

Memorial (Mark Witt)

- The committee welcomed two new members: Deb Fratini and Kris Reenstjerna.
- Benches for the needlepoint kneelers will be added near the columbariums so the kneelers will get some use and be visible.
- The drapes in the Celebration gym should be installed over Thanksgiving weekend.
- New Bibles with a newer translation are being ordered. The old Bibles will be made available to whoever wants one.

Motion to add Kris Reenstrjerna as Chair of the Memorial Committee: Mark Witt

Second: Glenn Wishnew

Motion passed

Endowment

No report

Stewardship

Discussed above

Christian Education (Pastor Emily)

- The 20-hour Children's Ministry Coordinator position that is open has had a low response so far.
- They are starting maternity leave planning with Stephanie Engel.

7. Next Meeting

November 17; opening devotion: Susan Miller

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rebecca Cremin