



Council Minutes March 10th, 2018

IN ATTENDANCE:

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| * Paul Bulgerin
Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen | * Alissa Burgos (Secretary)
Ed Eckert (Treasurer) | * Peg Lade (Worship)
Wendy Freeland (Fellowship) |
| * Mike McGraw (President) | Pat Murack (Christian Education) | Lisa Bernd (Director of Involvement) |
| * Kerry Feutz (Past President) | Kelly Klug (Outreach) | * Sarah Brogni (Property) |
| * Mike Moran (President Elect) | Melissa Schmidt (Christian Care) | |
- (*) present at meeting

The meeting began at 10:12 A.M. with President Mike McGraw presiding.

Reflection led by Mike McGraw

- ✓ Approval of meeting agenda
- ✓ Approval of the January 2018 minutes

Pastors and DI Reports

PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:

Nicaragua Mission Trip: All eleven of us who went to Nicaragua from February 11-20 had a wonderful experience working with Meg Boren, her staff from the Circle of Empowerment and the people of Nicaragua. I am so glad to have had the opportunity to participate in this. Karen and Samantha also found it rewarding.

The mission trip group will make a presentation to the congregation in April, after Easter. The plan is to do one during an adult forum time and another on an evening, so more people can attend.

Mission Trip Follow Up Support: We are planning two efforts to support the work of the Circle of Empowerment over the remaining months of 2018.

The first is to recruit sponsors for the second-grade students in the school run by Oneyda, Meg's right-hand helper. It costs \$90 to support a student for a year. In conjunction with the trip presentation we will have a bulletin board that has the names and photos of the available students. There are about nine of them. We will ask people to make an on-going annual contribution, so they can continue to support a child as they grow up.

In the early fall we will plan a second appeal to raise money for college students from the communities which are served by the Circle of Empowerment. It costs about \$400 to support a student. We will work with Meg to decide how many students, and which students, we will seek to support.

Grace Play: The cast has been hard at work since early January. They have met every weekend for rehearsals and are doing a great job! Katy Koppa stepped in to take up the directing duties when I was in Nicaragua. "Who Done In Mr. Z?" will be performed at both services on Sunday, March 18. We have twenty-five people in the play and have been encouraging Grace members to invite people to come and see it.

Thrivent Builds Training: I have registered to participate in the Thrivent Builds training session in Minneapolis on May 4-5. I need to take this training in order to be qualified to lead a Thrivent Builds mission trip working with Habitat For Humanity. As I have shared with the council and congregation, one of my biggest goals during my remaining years at Grace is to put together an on-going adult mission trip ministry. This training is the first step doing so and can lead to an adult mission trip in 2019. Others can take the training in the future, so we can build up a pool of qualified mission trip leaders.

Sabbatical Funding: I have written a letter to Council President Mike McGraw asking if the council would consider allocating \$4,000 from Grace's sabbatical fund for my sabbatical this year. The employee handbook states that pastors can receive \$2,500 for sabbaticals, but it was made clear at the time of my last sabbatical, that more could be requested. In 2010 I asked for \$4,000 and that was granted. With the anticipated pastoral changes over the next few years, Grace may not need to provide funding for another sabbatical until 2030, which would give plenty of time to build up the fund.



Council Minutes March 10th, 2018

I would like to use this money to help with expenses for the Thrivent Builds training in Minneapolis in May, the “In the Footsteps of the Apostle Paul” trip in June and another short trip Karen and I would like to take later in the summer. The money would also be used for expenses I may incur as I seek to find a publisher for the plays I have written over the years.

I thank the council for any financial support it will provide for my sabbatical.

- A motion was made to approve giving \$4,000 from the sabbatical fund to Pastor Paul.
 - ✓ The motion was seconded and approved with 7 approval votes.

Pre-Sabbatical Planning: I hope to begin my sabbatical on May 14. Before then I will be working to make sure that I get some planning done for the late summer and fall. I will return from sabbatical in time to begin recruiting and promoting for “God’s Work Our Hands” day of service. The plan this year is to push it back a week, so it doesn’t fall on Rally Sunday. This means it will be held on Sunday, September 16. This will give us an extra week to recruit people once the fall schedule starts.

I will also make sure that I have initial schedules for the 2018-2019 confirmation program ready before I begin my sabbatical.

Habitat For Humanity of Ozaukee County Support: One of my goals for 2018 is to have Grace become a supporting congregation for the planned Grafton build this summer. Habitat For Humanity in Ozaukee County is seeking ten churches to support this build. Each congregation would provide \$5,000 to get the build started as well as five work crews and five meal crews during the build.

Grace has already allocated \$2,000 from the Endowment Fund for this. I plan to conduct a low-key appeal with the congregation, later in April, to encourage the members of Grace to support this project with their money and time. The goal will be to find thirty members who would each contribute at least \$100 for this, although gifts of any size will be appreciated. At the same time, we will recruit volunteers to work one day (five work crews total) during the build, and groups of volunteers to provide a meal for the volunteer workers five times during the build.

Our support for the local Habitat build will be a good step toward our on-going adult mission trip program.

Ninth Grade Confirmation: Jessica Korrison and I led the ninth grade retreat the weekend of January 26-28. I met with the class again on February 27 and am holding a session, co-led by Chris Beloin and Susan Matz from Thrivent Financial, on Sunday, March 11, with the students and their parents, to talk about “Living Generously”. This session will discuss the personal stewardship of our money and time to serve the Lord by supporting the work of the church and by helping others in Christ’s name.

Finally, the students asked if they could have a night to just get together and hang out as a group – which I thought was a great idea! We’re going to do this on Friday, March 23.

PASTOR HEIDI'S REPORT:
No Report

DIRECTOR OF INVOLVEMENT: (Lisa Bernd)
No Report

Attendance Report
Attendance was discussed.



Council Minutes March 10th, 2018

Open Issues

1. Nominating Committee – 6 members (2 outgoing council members) No re-elections. Elected by Congregation at Annual Meeting.
 - a. Three members elected at large from the congregation at the annual meeting: two pastors, pres elect, and Lisa.
 - b. We have the 6 people we need.
2. Audit Committee – 3 members (no council members) – Elected by Council.
 - a. We are set for this from the annual meeting
3. Staff Support – Need 2 new members.
 - a. We are still looking for these people.
4. Personnel Committee – Need 1 new member.
 - a. We are still looking for this person.

Committee Reports

CHRISTIAN CARE: (Melissa Schmidt)

There will be a new member group. Possible April 29th.

FELLOWSHIP: (Wendy Freeland)

- Lenten meals are in full swing at this time.
- I am looking for a date to put on calendar for church picnic, if pastors could help me with that, I can pass on information to others involved.

FINANCE: (Ed Eckert)

- Total income for the month was \$48,670.48 – much better than February, but still below what we should average for a month to meet budget (about \$51,500.00).
- Expenses for the month were a little high at \$53,289.90 (we should average the \$51,500.00 or lower). Grounds and Maintenance accounted for most of the overage – we got both the January and February salting/plowing bills at once from Jim's Maintenance for a total of \$1,895.00, and we also had a couple annual fees to pay including \$450.00 for plumbing/backflow testing and \$480.00 for our annual Fire Detection Monitoring fee. Together, those put us over the top. Not any other unusual expenses this month.
- Still because of prepaids and a good month of January, however, we are still in a surplus condition for the year, with \$20,154.78 of income in excess over expenses through March. Our budget cash went from +\$13953.58 at the end of February to +\$9,334.16, dropping \$4,619.42 in March. That is better than February, but it would be good to get break-even month or even a positive month or two.
- Outside of March, we will be getting a large bill for the plumbing/heating repairs and I will be looking for your direction in which funds to use to pay those – so please stay in touch on that.

*This report through the end of March

OUTREACH: (Kelly Klug)

No Report

PROPERTY: (Sarah Brogni)

- We have had an intermittent water dripping in the men's bathroom. I have a contractor coming out to look at it this weekend. He will also give a quote for the north entrance project.
- Plan on scheduling the work to the north entrance for some time this spring/summer
- Spring clean-up is scheduled for May 5th. Will work with Erica about what all this entails. I have paint and repair supplies clearly marked so we can try and do touch ups throughout the church.



Council Minutes March 10th, 2018

- Hope to put something in the grace notes to see all the “hidden helps” that do things monthly for the church. So, if something would happen to someone we could continue to do the work

WORSHIP: (Peg Lade)

- The WPT met on February 6th, 2018. The meeting was opened with a prayer for the upcoming trip to Nicaragua by Pastor Paul and members of the congregation.
- Pastor Paul informed us that the play rehearsals were going very well and we should have a good performance on Sunday, March 18th.
- Pastor Heidi talked about how we “changed” the timing of Lent a bit this year. Also, she discussed some of her plans for when Pastor Paul is on sabbatical this summer. She is working on several guest speakers to be with us on some of those Sundays.
- Our next meeting times were discussed as I (Peg) could not make the usual March 6th meeting date. We plan to hold the March meeting on the 13th.
- The April meeting will be held on April 10th.
- We talked about the placement of the choir anthem in the 8:00am service and decided that it might be better placed before the children’s sermon rather than after it. That change has been made and is working well.
- We are still looking for a new member for our team – a congregational representative. Pastor Heidi has a possible candidate in mind.
- Eryn shared that the liturgy is changing during the Lenten season for the Sunday services. The liturgy is a familiar one from the ELW hymnal. The Wednesday night services will use the Holden Evening Prayer service, with song leaders from the congregation.
- We also discussed possibly using a musical call to worship and/or benediction during the Easter season.
- The devotion at our next meeting will be led by Pastor Heidi.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE: (Pat Murack)

Feb 6th YFMT Meeting

Sunday School

- Raised nearly 300 dollars in offering so far this school year
- Upcoming Activities
 - Jan 28th - 5K The Lord’s Prayer Family Event
 - Feb 11th - 5K kids say the Lord’s Prayer in worship
 - April 15th - 3K, 4K and 5K play bells in worship
 - April 29th - 1st thru 5th graders sing in worship
 - May 6th - 3K, 4K and 5K sing in worship
 - May 6th - Teacher Appreciation Day??
 - May 20th - End of year celebration

Christmas Program

- Went well - discussed options for next year

KFC - 3rd thru 5th Grade

- January meeting Movie night - about 10 kids attended
- February - Olympics
- March - Concordia production of Lion Witch and Wardrobe

JYG - 6th thru 8th Grade

- Lock in had 17 youth attends
- Education Hour attendance steady



Council Minutes March 10th, 2018

- February Sunburst Trip

HYPE - 9th thru 12th Grace

- Chili Lunch raised 420 dollars
- February Sunburst Trip
- March Palm Sunday Brunch
- May assist with Grace Clean up
- Education hour attendance struggling
- COPE speaker on April 29th

Mission Trip

- Registration and they are due Feb 12th. We will lose \$50 a person to decrease numbers (reserved 18 spots total)
- Multiple communications have happened to high schoolers and parents
- Opened the trip up to 8th graders as well

Confirmation

- 9th grade confirmation camp went very well
- Confirmation is on Mother's Day again due to Grafton School schedule
- 7th graders serving Ash Wednesday Meal
- 7th Grade confirmation camp is in June

Parent Fellowship Hour

- Meets 1st and 3rd Sunday with 6 regular attendees
- Video Series Putting God First in Our Lives

VBS

- Sent out save the dates via email - August 6th to 10th

Family Camp

- Started to advertise to get more families to come. This is an invaluable experience to get away as a family.

Nursery

- Discussed full time paid staff for the nursery. We will work on regular volunteers and evaluate nursery usage.

Other Items

- Papa Murphy's Fundraiser - Grace receives 20% of purchases on Sunday if you bring a church bulletin
- Texting system is up and running
- We are still looking for more people to do the children's message
- Make a Splash for Jesus is tentatively set for July 15th pending reservation of the pool

Budget

- At the end of 2017 we had three accounts that were negative. 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat (-1473.65) 9th Grade Retreat (-376) and Quake (-675.23). The Retreats were from people that did not pay, and the Quake was for a deposit when we did not go.
*a good portion of this stemmed from our failure to budget for the expense for retreat chaperones for these retreats. We have now included this amount in the 2018 budget and should not be a problem again.



**Council Minutes
March 10th, 2018**

Other Business

Closing Prayer: