



Council Minutes

March 28th, 2019

IN ATTENDANCE:

*Pastor Paul Bulgerin
*Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen
*Mike Moran (President)
*Mike McGraw (Past President)
Mark Barber (President Elect)
(*) present at meeting

*Jodi Doro (Secretary)
*Lynda Lalley (Treasurer)
*Jen Jacobson (Christian Education)
*Kelly Klug (Outreach)
Melissa Schmidt (Christian Care)

*Kelly Olson (Worship)
Wendy Freeland (Fellowship)
*Lisa Bernd (Director of Involvement)
*Sarah Brogni (Property)

The meeting began at 7:29 P.M. with President Mike Moran presiding.

Reflection led by Pastor Paul

- ✓ Approval of meeting agenda
- ✓ Approval of the January 24, 2019 & Council Retreat March 2, 2019 minutes – Moved as amended
- ✓ Annual Meeting approval pushing off until next month to provide time to review

Pastors and DI Reports

PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:

Special Offering Appeal: After conversations with Pastor Heidi and others, I recommend that we do not conduct a special appeal this spring to raise money to reduce the amount we use from the contingency fund in 2019. It was the feeling of those with whom I spoke that an appeal like this would detract from our fall stewardship program. In the fall, I will work with those who have volunteered to be part of the stewardship team, to put together a comprehensive program that will work toward increasing giving so that we make a significant increase in giving for 2020 so that we will use a lot less of the contingency fund in 2020.

Those members who raised the idea of a special appeal have told me that they plan to make their extra contribution no matter what we decide to do. That is greatly appreciated.

Stewardship Planning: Pat Murack, Howard Vrankin and Paul Singer have all agreed to serve on the stewardship team. I will work to recruit several more people and will begin working with this group in early summer to lay out our plans and goals for the program. Our fall program will be on the level we conducted in 2016 and 2017 with the Stewardship for All Seasons synod pilot project. I will share more plans with the council later in the spring.

Ozaukee County Habitat for Humanity: We are beginning to publicize the build in Grafton this spring. Sign-up sheets are available this week for those who want to help work on construction or help provide the meals. We will be seeking to have Thrivent Financial members submit Action Team Plan requests for funds to pay for the food.

Grace has already contributed \$3,000 of our pledged \$5,000 seed money for the build. I recommend that we use Endowment Fund money to cover the remaining amount. Habitat says it is fine if we do this at the end of the year.

Thrivent Builds Presentation: The group from our Florida trip in February will make a presentation to the congregation during the education hour on Sunday, April 14. This presentation will let members know what our group did and encourage others to consider going on future Thrivent Build mission trips.

Grace Play: Our cast and crew did a good job on the play. I appreciate all of their hard work. We have learned to not schedule the play the day after an ice storm when we switch to Daylight Saving Time, as the attendance at 8:00 a.m. was down from last year. We had a very good group in attendance for the 10:30 a.m. performance. I am currently preaching a three-part sermon series based upon the biblical stories illustrated in the play. This runs through March 31.

Outreach for Hope Bike Ride: Pastor Heidi and I have volunteered to have Grace host this fund-raising bike ride on Saturday, September 7. We will be responsible for snacks before and lunch after the ride and will apply for a



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Thrivent Action Team plan grant to fund the event. The ride was a big success in 2018 and should be one again this year.

Discussion:

Will work with Lisa to see where people are at with their giving 1st quarter compared to their pledges. Over 35 volunteers signed up already for Habitat for Humanity build in Grafton.

PASTOR HEIDI'S REPORT:

Worship: We continue with our Lent themes "Perfect Love Casts Out Fear."

I am working on Good Friday and Easter Services for Holy Week this year.

Pastor Paul and I will put together some sermons based on the lectionary texts from Revelation for after Easter. I'm hoping to get some of the kids who attended the worship class to sign up to lead worship soon (as readers, ushers, etc.).

I officiated at Ed and DeeAnn Fugate's Vow Renewal, and look forward to co-officiating at Kelsey Mantel's wedding with Pastor Paul in April.

Continuing Education: I attended a great study on Revelation lead by Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing, one of my seminary professors from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. The synod brought her in to help us prepare for the Revelation texts coming up. I learned a lot!

High School Youth Group: I'm leading the classes the last couple weeks of March.

Shut In Visitation: We lost a couple of shut-ins earlier this year, but we have gained several more. This month has been busy with shut-in and other visits.

DIRECTOR OF INVOLVEMENT: (Lisa Bernd)

Building Usage: Our first group used the building last weekend. Katie said the Sunday School rooms were cleaned & ready to be used for Sunday School. Our next group is May 18.

Building Updates: We recently had our back flow water valve tested. The village requires annual testing & it must be done by a licensed plumber. We did not pass the inspection. We will need to discuss the two options for repair.

Adult Literacy Question: Katie has an ALC question for me to ask of the council.

Goals for 2019:

*****Reconciled in Christ:** As Pastor Heidi talked about last year, she would like us to become a RIC church. I agree with her & would like to take the steps to move forward to have our church be known as a RIC church. I have information for everyone to look at & I will hand it out at the meeting.***

Letter for People Who We Haven't Seen in A while: Pastor Heidi found a great letter that I would love to send to members to let them know we are thinking of them. I will share a copy at the meeting.

Building Information: I started working on a check list for using the building.

Building Evacuation Plan Book: Katie, Erica & I will be getting together in the next few weeks to go through the plan & I will have them printed & out by the end of the program year.

Regular Things: I also continue doing the coffee hour dishes, -weekly insert, Grace Notes, the Good News, responsibility emails, entering contributions, e-giving & the million things that come up daily.

Discussion:

Welcome Back Letter – looking to send out to those who haven't been attending since beginning of the year. Would like to send out week before Easter to show what is coming up. Pastor Heidi & Lisa will work up a letter geared towards our congregation (sample shared). Email will primarily be used.



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RIC – What is needs to be done - complete an Affirmation/Welcome statement (to be completed by committee formed), hold Adult Forums on this throughout the year (options for meeting: – review what Bible does and doesn't say; have families come in to discuss this; Bill Beyer 1st openly gay pastor in area come talk). Would be looking to have this completed by end of 2019 to have church vote on this at annual meeting. Committee formed could be short term to long term, based on what the committee chooses to do.

Council recommends moving forward with presenting information to church leading to vote by end of the year. Pastor Paul, Linda 2nd, approved. Pastor Heidi will head up committee and start getting Adult Forums plan.

Attendance Report

Attendance was discussed.

Committee Reports

CHRISTIAN CARE: (Melissa Schmidt)

Report not provided.

FELLOWSHIP: (Wendy Freeland)

Report not provided.

FINANCE: (Lynda Lalley)

Total income for the month of February was \$40,956 which includes \$800 in prepaid pledges that were not moved over in January. The true income is \$40,156 which puts us behind \$9,974 for February, to meet the monthly budget we should average about \$50,130.

Looking at it from Year-to-Date our overall income is behind by (\$19,977.08). Sunday offering are down by (\$34,772) from last year.

Expenses for the month were under by \$2,904.

Listed below are areas to be aware of:

1. Rostered Ministry Salaries including Housing Allowance – projecting to be over budget
2. Rostered Ministry Pension and Health Insurance – fluctuating due to salary increase
3. Rostered Ministry Supplemental Insurance – projecting to be over budget
4. Rostered Ministry Social Security Allowance – projecting to be over budget
5. Non-Rostered Staff Financial Services and Fees – projecting to be over budget – regular monthly fee is \$121.50 and additional fees for W2's for 2019 were about \$136.

Our budgeting cash is -\$31,409.27 at the end of February.

OUTREACH: (Kelly Klug)

Goal for 2019 - Go to St. Ben's (soup kitchen near MATC). In past, we have been smaller group so we've been assigned smaller/random duties. This is operating 6 days a week; in past we've gone quarterly on a weekday and want to get back into this. We do not provide anything we just show up that day, set up, work duties, and clean up. Time frame in past was 4 until 7:30-8.

PROPERTY: (Sarah Brogni)

The last few months have not been good for the overall health of the property.

The ceiling vent in the men's bathroom continues to have leaking from rain or melting snow. Once the snow and ice has melted, we can take a look at sealing the vent from the outside.

The most recent issue was from the outside "room" off the furnace room. The gutters were frozen full of ice and when it started to melt the water had no place to go and went into the wall, soaked the insulation and



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drywall. After further inspection it was noted that the one wall was never finished with siding, the gutter flashing wasn't installed and the door frame was never sealed. The entire area needs to be looked at for future issues. The current sump pump has a make shift heating system that may not make it another winter.

Potentially the gutters need to be looked at for proper drainage and or gutter guard to prevent back up in the future. All of this will need to be repaired and fixed. As small team has agreed to work on this, this being led by Mark Barber and hopefully the repairs will not cost too much.

Lastly, we failed an inspection of a backflow test from the village. One of the valves is broken and needs to be replaced. That particular area is around 30-35 yrs. old. We did get some estimates to replace just the broken one for \$300 or the whole section for \$400-500.

I would like to discuss the issues that are budget is almost completely gone due to the constant issues that are continuing to pop up. I'm unsure what we will encounter for the rest of the year.

I was thinking that we could try and compile a list of all repairs, short term solutions that need long term solutions and future projects. Then we could see if we have members of the church who are willing to work on these projects or repairs. But making sure we follow the standards or not coming up with "it will work" solutions. I foresee more issues coming up in the next year or two if we don't start being more proactive. Many of the more recent repairs or problems I feel are because some parts of the building are significantly older and things are just wearing out.

Goal for 2019 – get ahead of problems, a lot of little things that need to be checked on and develop yearly checklist. Chris Beloin indicated that there might be options to use Thrivent Action Team plans to fund some of the smaller projects on the list; as there were three bills from last year coming in 2019 so current year's budget will be tight.

WORSHIP: (Kelly Olson)

Committee has not met since retreat – trying to meet every other month to see how it goes. Looking for ways to improve participation. One item is Parenting in the Pews.

Main goal – Parenting in the Pews, also look to target other families that don't have young children.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE: (Jen Jacobson – Katie Eippert)

Sunday School

Upcoming Events:

- March 31: 3K-5K Play Bells in Worship
- April 7: 1st-5th Graders Sing in Worship
- May 5: 3K, 4K & 5K Sing in Worship
- May 5: Teacher Appreciation Sunday
- May 19: Last Day of Sunday School

Sunday School Lent Meal

Thanks to our Sunday School families, staff and all of Grace, we were able to raise \$600 for the Foster Closet of Kenosha in memory of Xander! Our quilters have also donated 4 child sized quilts that we will send with the check. Xander's family even joined us that evening. Both Xander's mom and the Albieros have expressed so much appreciation for the support they have received from their Grace Family. Thank you to all of those who helped that evening, reached out to the Albieros in other ways and held them up in your prayers.

Parenting in the Pews

I will be meeting with the Worship Planning Team on Tues, April 2

Pine Lake



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We are trying to do a bigger push to encourage kids and families to go to Pine Lake. For those who have gone, it is truly a transformational experience. We have at least two families going to family camp, the confirmation kids going and one other student going a different week. Pine Lake is open to everyone, so please spread the word that friends and family may join in as well.

Crossways Capital Campaign

Grace will hold a scaled back Crossways Capital Campaign in throughout June. More info will come in the upcoming weeks.

If you want to learn more about the Crossways Capital Campaign, visit their website:

<https://www.crosswayscamps.org/campaign.html>

Vacation Bible School

I will be emailing past VBS staff the first week in April to see who wants to return. Registration for VBS will begin May 5. We will continue to have our 150 student limit.

Make a Splash for Jesus

We will be holding Make a Splash for Jesus on July 21 at the Grafton Pool. We will have a camp service outside of the pool and open swim from 9:30-11:30. We are trying to get a Thrivent grant to help cover the cost of the pool rental. Donations taken at the pool will go to the Crossways Capital Campaign (since it is a camp-style worship service).

Outreach for Hope Bike Ride

Erica and I will be working with Pastor Kelly on more kid friendly activities that we can include at the Outreach for Hope Bike Ride that will take place at Grace this fall.

Discussion: Idea brought up to discuss again charging small fee for Sunday School, is this a good thing, a deterrent? – Jen will take to the committee to discuss.

106 registered, 75% attend regularly (2x month)

Main Goal is Parenting in the Pews

Other Business

Chantal – Scrip Fundraising – gift cards available to purchase from over 700 retailers. Available in either physical cards or electronic; they are purchased for face value and Scrip center provides a rebate to group's account 1% up to 20% for various places. No commitment/locked in for certain time. Shipping is \$8.50 for each physical card order. One can also sign up for account and purchase online – shopwithscrip.com

All Grace would need is a subscription/account; to set up bank account for shipping costs and where the rebate would go to. Money would go to help offset the budget deficit – general fund.

Chantal will look into taxes and potential filings for this and is also willing to be present after church services to help people set up accounts.

All were in favor of moving forward with this fundraiser.

Linda Borkenhagen indicated on May 13th, Adult Literacy Center will be having an event with wine & light lunch 5:30-7PM – President approved this

Next council meeting will be April 25th at 7:20PM; Sarah will be leading devotion

Closing Prayer:

Pastor Heidi