

Faith Lutheran Church
Board of Directors Minutes
November 16, 2020

Present: (Zoom) Pastor Biermann, Bruce Trevithick, Sam Siegel, Scott Hans, Matt Guinn, Heather Vance, Sarah Palmer, Krissa Zander, Marcy Montez, Jenny Mervyn, Laurie Crawford, Phillip Whitmer

Absent: Ken Duetsch

Guests: None

Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm with devotion and prayer led by Pastor Biermann. Read to us from the Old Testament, 1 Chronicles, Chapter 16, verses 8 – 12 (a portion of David's Song of Thanks). The passage relates to the attitude of David and the people of Israel for what the Lord had done for them, even how he had been with them through the trials and tribulations that they had faced. Pastor requests that we keep this same attitude and remember the miracles and wondrous things that God has done. Especially the salvation that he has brought as he sent Jesus to die and rise for us. And that as a Faith family, remember the blessings that we have received over the past year through the many activities that have taken place and the different ways in which the people have been able to connect with each other and being able to lift one another up and how as a whole the COVID crisis has not afflicted us terribly within the congregation closely. Whereas in the past with other traumas and afflictions this has not always been the case. Is there reason to give thanks? Yes – we have God's love and His protection and His salvation guaranteed.

Secretary's Report: Phillip Whitmer

- Minutes from the October 19th meeting were presented and reviewed. Laurie Crawford made the motion to accept. Supported by Sam Siegel and the motion was passed.

Pastoral Report/Notes: Pastor Biermann

- Parochial report illustrates that the numbers are similar to prior months. 45-60 is the norm for live worship. Online presentation continues to be improved with small tweaks. One improvement pointed out is that we are now able to provide a view of those receiving communion. (Laurie mentioned that she really appreciated being able to see that.) Also starting next week they will use the Baptismal font for the closing to show the Pastor as he delivers it.
- Staff reports were also included in the parochial report. Staff continue to work on finding ways in which to plan things that are "change proof", or in other words, can still be carried forward even if other events occur that would cause a change in how the activity is completed

- Starting with the coming Sunday (November 22, 2020) a drive through Communion will be offered for those that virtually attend the 10:45 service live-stream in its' entirety (Pastor clarified this later in response to a question brought up by Sarah) and then drive to the church for Communion. Will be hands free, pre-wrapped wafers/wine and cars will go under the canopy at door 1S. Pastor will be there officiating for about 30 minutes following the service or until all vehicles have passed through. Pastor got this idea from other churches within the synod.
- Planning is progressing for the Bible reading activity which begins January 1, 2021. Promotional post card will be going out announcing the Christmas Eve services as well as promoting the Bible Reading.
- Discussed briefly the suit that has been filed against the Boy Scouts of America and that a settlement has been tentatively resolved and that the District office recommended that any church that had hosted a BSA troop file a "General Claim of Proof", which would protect the church from further litigation/liability. After talking with attorneys this has already been done under their advisement. (No allegations have been brought forth that would directly involve Faith Lutheran Church of Grand Blanc).
- Pastor requested that if any of us have names to place in nomination for the various positions in the Michigan District LCMS to please let him know. There is some question as to whether the conventions will be allowed to take place at any of the Concordia campuses. Pastor said it will be very interesting to see how this is handled as the ruling is that the district conventions are to be in person and "live". Conventions must be done by the end of 2021. Pastor will keep us posted on this as it plays out. We have to continue with the nominating process in order to have the congregation vote on these at the Congregational meeting in January. Pastor suggested several names:
 - President – Reverend Dave Davis out of Haslett – Currently serving as a V.P. of District
 - Vice President, North/East Region – Reverend Erik Claytor out of Clio
 - Pastor can and will bring forward other suggestions at a future meeting.

President's Report: Bruce Trevithick

- Following the Governor of Michigan's press conference last night, Bruce has had conversations with both Pastor Biermann and the executive committee and at this time they do not see a need to change the way we have been conducting our services.
- Announced that at the end of this calendar year Scott Hans will be stepping down from his position as Vice President of Salary and Personnel. To complete Scott's term, Chris Vanlandeghem has agreed to be appointed by Bruce to step in and assume those duties beginning January 1, 2021.
- Executive committee met and has concluded that a congregation forum is needed and that a virtual forum will be held January 23, 2021 from 10:00am to 12:00pm. Agenda and suggested topics will be announced later by Bruce.

- Bruce also reminded us about the voters' annual meeting which will be Sunday January 31, 2021 @ 2:00pm. Phil asked if this could be done in person – Bruce stated that it had not been decided yet, that they don't want to exclude anyone from participating if they want to. More to follow at next meeting as to how it is planned to be conducted.

Laurie prompted a discussion over hers and others angst and frustration over the restrictions placed on worship, right to work, etc. Several board members commented on both how they felt about current situation and how they could relate to Laurie's frustration. Pastor reminded us that the real enemy is Satan as he tries to pull us apart and that we need to stick it in his face by pulling together within this group (the board) and building each other up the best that we can and move forward.

V.P. Property & Maintenance: Sam Siegel

- Nothing to report on. No problems to bring forward.

V.P. Salary & Personnel: Scott Hans

- Work continues with the transition away from Marge Taylor to in-house with Alicen Dub and staff taking on the payroll & bookkeeping functions. They are ensuring that there are no conflicts of interest and that backups are in place. Running new software in parallel with Marge's work.
 - Currently no other changes planned for 2020 but in 2021 additional resources may be added.

V.P. Finance & Stewardship: Ken Duetsch (absent, Bruce reported)

- Reviewed the one page summary report prepared and provided by Ken
 - Cash on Hand still in good shape. Currently above where we were when pandemic started. In part because the Church is not spending as much
- Bruce mentioned that he will be talking with Ken about getting the full reports in the future, like the board had in the past while continuing to receive this new summary.
- Reviewed first draft of budget for 2021-22. Copy of proposed spending plan was provided to all.
 - Proposed expenditures are just short of \$11,000 more than last year's budget at a total projection of \$997,597.
 - Income projection does not support this expenditure.
 - Bruce suggested that the take away from this first draft is that everyone needs to work on their plans as he does not think we should propose a budget that is higher than the current year.

- Pastor agreed with Bruce considering again the higher projected expense combined with a decrease in income. Some of the decrease attributed to the pre-school but not all of it. Would like to see us provide a budget that does not propose higher spending compared to this year when we know that we are going to have reduced income. Asked that the board members reconsider some of their proposed expenditures and share those with Ken prior to the next meeting.

Board Reports & Requests:

Youth Board: Jenny Mervyn

- Planning a secret Santa exchange for the youth. Youth will sign up and buy appropriate gift. Zoom Christmas party planned where they will open their gift. Also encouraging the youth to send Christmas cards with maybe short messages inside of them throughout the month of December. In lieu of an actual Christmas party this year, the youth board is going to give a \$15 gift card from either Meijer or Walmart that the youth who sign up can use for their gift to their person. Age group for participants is pre-school through out of high school.
- Would like to host an event for the high school students as soon as is possible. Suggested bowling or something similar. Once things do open up it was voiced that it is the parents' decision as to whether someone would participate or not. Board not to decide for the parent. When event does happen, protocols currently in place at that time would be followed.

Elders: Matt Guinn

- Two resolutions were passed by the elders at their November meeting
 - Pastors will provide drive-through Communion to those members of the church that attend the 10:45am virtual service via live-stream on Sundays. This is to start with the first Sunday following this meeting.
 - Moved pastoral training scholarship fund expense out of the Elders to the Congregational Ministry budget. Will insure that Ken is aware of that change starting with the 2021-22 budget.
- Continued planning for the Faith Bible Reading Journey.
 - Online forums – try to meet once a week
 - Groups will determine how and when they meet
 - Live groups possible for those who would like to
 - Laurie Crawford volunteered to assist where needed

Outreach & Evangelism: Sarah Palmer

Received some feedback from cards that were sent out. Received some cards in return, couple of phone calls. General response was the respondents were simply staying away because of the Covid.

Will be sending out Thanksgiving cards. Also will be sending out small Christmas gift to the same group she is sending cards to.

Working on plans for next year

Worship: Laurie Crawford

- Budget under control -
 - Conducted an inventory of supplies needed for Communion. No need to purchase any through the end of the year is projected.
 - Some monies will be spent out of her budget for the Communion packages needed for the outside Communion
 - No new music ordered and Emily Craw does not think she will be needing any for awhile
- Laurie asked the Pastor for a projection of how many to plan for, for the Christmas Eve and Christmas services, regarding Communion. Pastor indicated that they intend to serve Communion at all services (except 3pm Christmas Eve) this year because of the restrictions on attendance and that 400 would be a high number. Pastor also indicated that arrangements have been made for any overflow of attendees and that they would be seated in Heins Hall and the screens would be active.

Communication & Publicity: Krissa Zander

- Church is now a sponsor of the Grand Blanc Parks and Recreation's "Lights Drive Through" in Centennial park. Event is December 11th, 12th, 18th and 19th. 8,000 people have indicated an interest in this event on Facebook. Recognition as a sponsor is that when they put out any flyer or info, they will thank their sponsors and our logo will be there.
- Sending out postcards to everyone to let them know the time of the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.
- Working with Alicen to figure out how to use bulk mailing as we send to 918 addresses. This prompted because only a small portion of congregation actually will read/view emails sent to their address (somewhere between 30-35% only).
- Krissa asked the Pastor if she should post a Facebook announcement about the drive through Communion. His response was no, not at this time.

Congregational Ministry: Heather Vance

- Reviewed the Trunk'r Treat event. It was socially distanced and it went really well. Will be able to take some of what they did this year and use it for next year.
- Porch Pot Kit project. 50 pots total purchased. Discussed the fellowship part of the project and the current limitation of only 25 allowed to gather outside. Pots not purchased will be donated to first responders. Pastor Biermann will contact community members. It was suggested that the Grand Blanc fire department be considered. Some type of devotional will go with the pot.

Social Ministry: Marcy Montez

- Held first virtual zoom meeting. Only had a few participants, hopes to have more in the future.
 - Thanksgiving Gift Cards – Currently 9 families have been signed up. Will distribute on the 23rd. Talk to Alicen in the office if you have someone to sign up.
 - Working on the Angel Tree – Amazon link is possible for those who won't or can't do in person shopping.
 - Gift registry on Amazon, person will select gift and purchase. It will be delivered to Marcy and she will wrap it and place it under the tree.
 - Angel Tree to be setup before the 6th of December
 - For future, try to get the meals for families that have family members in the hospital back up and running.
 - Will work on getting the Heartbeat project back up.
 - Would like to work with the Luke 52 project in conjunction with Franklin Avenue Mission.
 - Food pantry is well stocked at this time, donations continue to come in. Not distributing a lot at this time.

Roundtable & Announcements:

No other issues were presented

Closed with prayer from Pastor Biermann. Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm

Next meeting is December 21, 2020 @ 7:00pm via ZOOM

Respectfully submitted,

Phillip W Whitmer