

Faith Lutheran Church  
Board of Directors Minutes  
February 15, 2021

**Present: (Zoom)** Pastor Biermann, Bruce Trevithick, Sam Siegel, Ken Duetsch, Matt Guinn, Chris Vanlandeghem, Sarah Palmer, Krissa Zander, Jenny Mervyn, Laurie Crawford , Phillip Whitmer

**Absent:** Heather Vance, Marcy Montez

**Guests:**

Meeting was called to order at 7:02pm with devotion and prayer led by Pastor Biermann. Has always appreciated the snow. Relates the cleansing and whiteness of the snow to God being in control. The snow being one way in which God shows us that we are not in control, that he is and he can shut us down really fast. What the pastor really likes about the snow is the whiteness – the purity of it. That this goes back to transfiguration Sunday – that Christ is on the mountain with Peter, James and John talking to Moses and Elijah, the law and the prophets, representing all of the Scriptures from the past and that He (Christ) is the one that ties it all together and that they were all pointing to him and that those that try to throw away the old testament are missing out on this key important connection and that even Jesus was validating the importance of the law of Moses and the prophets and everything that they spoke about was pointing ahead to Jesus. And that Jesus is true God and we see that revealed on the Mount of Transfiguration when Jesus appears in his brilliant brightness as is stated in Mark chapter 9, *“And He was transfigured before them, and His clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them”*. The brilliance and beauty of Christ being revealed as true God. The comfort that that brings to us is that God almighty, humbled Himself to become man on earth in Jesus Christ. And that Jesus had that power but hid it in His youth in a state of humility so that He could relate to us in every way, going through our sin but not falling into sin so that He could then be our substitute under sin and bearing the curse of sin for us as full man with us. The transfiguration presents us with a brilliant picture of what is ahead at the end of Lent. The whiteness gives us a prelude as to what is to come as we head into the dark gray of Ash Wednesday and the somber penitence of Lent. Wonderful to see that we have the peace that Christ will give to us, that is guaranteed at the end of this world. Just as the snow slows us down and calms us down, Jesus is going to bring an end to the chaos, the worry, the fear, the sin, the dirt, the filth, and its’ all going to be washed clean and renewed when His full glory is revealed come the day of judgment. Pastor says to anticipate that with excitement and joy and even as we carry out the work of the Church, it seems like the drudgery and dirt and filth and that we have to hear about the sin of man – that despite that, remember that Jesus is in control, he is still God and that He has His brilliant beauty waiting for us and that we need to hang unto that glimpse that was given to us on that mountain as we go on into the future.

**Secretary’s Report:** Phillip Whitmer

- Minutes from the January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting were presented and reviewed. Matt made the motion to accept. Supported by Ken and the motion was passed.

## **Pastoral Report/Notes: Pastor Biermann**

- Parochial report had been distributed in advance. Nothing too major to be found in the report. Continuing with things pretty much as they have been in recent past.
- Bible reading journey is doing very well, very good response from congregation. People are engaged very avidly. Wednesday night zoom discussion has been added
- Looking forward to our Lenten journey together. Worship on Wednesday evening will be a special service focusing on Lent.
- Looking ahead to the celebration of Easter where a number of things are being planned for the holy week.
- Family event that includes an outdoor Easter Egg Hunt is in the works and being planned for March 20<sup>th</sup>. (regardless of the weather)
- Church is in touch with The Alliance for Defending Freedom (ADF), that keeps us posted on things that may impact Churches through legislation and government rulings. The “equality act” is especially being watched as it has far reaching implications as to limitations on practicing our faith in worship and life without ramifications against it. Webinar with a lot of its’ focus on this particular act was held last week. Pastor states we will continue to monitor anything that may impact our religious freedoms and that thankfully we are part of the ADF.
- The covid plan is a three step plan:
  - Has been discussed with the staff and they are onboard with it
  - Separate document outlining the steps was presented. Said document has been included with all materials presented during this meeting and is on file in the church office. Document is dated 2021-2-15
  - It is hoped that as covid becomes less of a threat and the community starts to open up more, that the church will also be able to follow suit. Practices and policies will continue to comply with current directives from the government and will keep the safety and health of the congregation foremost in its decisions.
  - Motion was made by Phil to approve the current three step plan as presented. Motion supported by Ken. Bruce asked if groups wanted to get back together in person but if there was still those that belonged to that group, that did not want to meet in person yet would there be a way in which to include them. His main concern was that we not start excluding some because of their health concerns. Pastor indicated that could be addressed when a group applied to have an in person meeting at the church and what arrangements would they be able to make to provide an opportunity for those not in attendance in person to participate. Access would be possible through zoom or conference call. No other comments or discussion ensued, call for the vote was made & motion was passed.

## **President's Report: Bruce Trevithick**

- Follow up to congregational meeting – congregation did reaffirm to bring back a capital campaign (which fell to the wayside because of the Covid pandemic). Now looking at how we go forward from here ---
  - Bruce to reach out to Ray Zavada who has offered to assist
  - Hope is to be able to kick off the campaign in the fall
  - Projected capital expenses are looming and have been put off
    - Roof
    - Parking lot
    - Possible pavilion
    - Carpeting
    - Mechanical
    - Pay down debt
  - As project moves forward will be looking for support from some members of the board/congregation
- Pastor indicated that with worship starting this coming Sunday that Joel Zander with the children's message is going to invite the children to come forward – must have a mask (other than age 2 or younger) and will be spaced appropriately apart. Parents will be welcome to join their child if the need arises. Advance notice to be given so that parents are not caught off guard or unprepared

## **V.P. Property & Maintenance: Sam Siegel**

- Routine maintenance continues
- Nothing else new to report and asked for questions. No questions were submitted.

## **V.P. Salary & Personnel: Chris Vanlandeghem**

- Krissa Zander has been hired to assist for a few hours each week in the office
- Question came up asking if the transition from Marge Taylor to Alicen Dub has been completed. Bruce replied – “almost”. Ken said that is a good lead in for his report – Chris stated delayed a little bit because of some recent financial changes (changed banks) and a couple of lingering items left for Marge to complete. For most part though transition is complete
- No other questions for Chris were put forth.

## V.P. Finance & Stewardship: Ken Duetsch

- From his standpoint, nothing left for Marge to do for the transition to be considered completed, other than maybe having to write a couple of checks to close out the accounts with Huntington State Bank.
- Year-end has been successfully closed out with both Marges' reports and Quickbooks. Couple of areas of reports didn't quite match, due to different ways in which the numbers were/are being reported. Working with District to redefine these within quickbooks.
- Finished the 2020-2021 year very good to budget. We were slightly under for actual income, but when compared to prior year the actual giving for this year was only \$650 less than the prior year. Actual expenses were below budgeted amounts. As a result cash on hand was higher at the end of the year than at the start.
  - Matt asked what range we should be at for cash on hand compared to upcoming expenses. Ken responded that for non-profits the norm is approximately 6
- Financial documents were provided to the board ahead of the meeting. Ken reviewed these:
  - January reports taken from quickbooks
  - Only one month presented, income matched to the penny with Marge's reports
  - Expenses were more than income so net income for the month of January 2021 was negative
  - Quickbook reports are a work in progress – going forward Ken and Alicen will be working to illustrate more pertinent data such as year to date or actual to budget. Also in conjunction with the District office as certain expenses are better defined the reports will adhere to “best practices” and standard accounting practices.
  - Preschool operated at a positive net income, as pointed out by Matt
  - Phil asked about a separate report for “restricted funds” and Ken responded that that is available and going forward what reports are included and their frequency will be decided.
- Nominating process for open positions is upon us. Committee will meet soon, Ken is in process of pulling together all positions that will be open. Any input to/for Ken would be appreciated.
- Matt raised the question if Ken had met or talked with the McFarlane's. Ken did have conversation with Don and where their heart is, is that a scholarship fund be established. Don indicated to Ken that there is some information at the church office and Ken will pick that up. Ken will also have a conversation over the difficulty of the church managing the challenges presented with doing this. Ken assured them that he will continue to follow through on this and be in touch with them.
- Ken expressed his gratitude for all the help that Alicen has been providing him and praised her efforts at taking on this responsibility and growing with it. Pastor also asked that anything we could do to show our appreciation towards Alicen would be nice.

## **Board Reports & Requests:**

### **Youth Board:** Jenny Mervyn

- Youth trivia nights will take place about every 5 weeks. Currently doing some test runs. The trivia night will be open to everybody.
- Zoom meeting scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup> for a parent forum

### **Elders:** Matt Guinn

- Still need to find a couple of elders to fill in a couple of vacancies. Currently recruiting for that. Hoping to get back to a full board with elections
- Elders also discussed the return of non-worship activities – this already discussed and approved by the board earlier (Pastors report)

### **Outreach & Evangelism:** Sarah Palmer

- Quiet month for her board
- Working with Christie Hansard and Becky Belill to get a hand-pump out and a card out to shut-ins and those staying home due to covid
- Has contacted the city of Grand Blanc to inquire as to the opening date for the Farmers Market as she would like us to participate in that this year. No opening date has been set yet.
- Grand Blanc Township doing an Easter egg hunt for the community. Krissa will have more to report on that

### **Worship:** Laurie Crawford

- Things are going well overall
- Projecting that within a couple of months that supplies will need to be purchased
- Confirmed with the pastor that there will be 2 services on Good Friday, no communion at either one. There will be 3 services at Easter, pastor indicated that a communion setup for 500 would be sufficient unless things change drastically by then. Pastor also indicated that having 3-400 available for Palm Sunday would be a good idea
- Board of Worship will purchase lilies for the Easter services.
- Question remains as to which group cleans up after Wednesday services. No problem with setup and she is working with Matt to address the issue.

### **Communication & Publicity:** Krissa Zander

- Grand Blanc Township Parks and Rec' are hosting a "Glo in the Dark" egg hunt on March 27<sup>th</sup>. They have asked for sponsors. Have assured her that social distancing will be required as well as masks. She will check to see if volunteers are needed.
- At the recent forum the idea of sponsoring local sports teams came up. The Steffe's have offered to donate money so that the church in turn could sponsor some teams. Andy Priestap has turned in an application for sponsorship. Question as to how to communicate to the rest of the congregation that this is available was raised. Further concerns expressed as to who exactly would we sponsor. Sam indicated that we need to be cautious as to who we sponsor and in what format. Chris suggested to just put a feeler out to see what kind of a response is received and from there further refinement of the selection process, etc. could be worked out.
  - Priestap application to move forward. Sponsorship gets the church logo on their banner which is displayed at every game and will be included with all Facebook publishing's that typically go out to the parents.

### **Congregational Ministry:** Heather Vance

- No Report

### **Social Ministry:** Marcy Montez

- Marcy was absent. Pastor reported:
  - Have been staying on top of things. A few requests have been addressed
  - Staying in close contact with Grand Blanc Outreach. Pastor is still the chair of this group and they are slowly moving forward by building a fund base and a partner base. Dave Robertson, the new township clerk, is joining the organization to assist with making connections within the community and a facility search.

### **Roundtable & Announcements:**

- Sam indicated that we need to lock the doors & turn the lights out. Sanctuary doors to be kept closed as they are fire proof doors.

Closed with prayer led by Bruce

Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm

Next meeting is March 15, 2021 @ 7:00pm via ZOOM

Respectfully submitted,

Phillip W Whitmer