

Faith Lutheran Church
Board of Directors Minutes
May 17, 2021

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

Absent: Pastor R. Scott, Cindy LaFontaine, Alicen Dub, Joel Zander, Emily Craw, Christie Hansard

Meeting was called to order at 7:04pm with devotion and prayer led by Pastor Biermann. Shared with the Board the proposed theme for the Fall, based upon Hebrews 12, vs 1 & 2. Verses were read - Theme for the Fall is to keep our focus on Jesus as our direction, our compass, our true north. He is our bearing point – our true north. Proposed logo was shown. In Christ, there is hope and there is joy in Him.

Secretary's Report: Phillip Whitmer

Minutes from the April 19, 2021 were presented. Motion was made by Marcy to accept the minutes as presented. Motion was supported by Sam. Corrections needed, add Sarah Wisson as a visitor and under Outreach and Evangelism, Christie brought a palm frond. All voted in favor of approving the minutes with the corrections noted.

Pre-School Update: Cindy LaFontaine

One week left to end of season. Haven't any Covid related issues since last October. Holding a graduation ceremony inside the sanctuary for the 4 year old students. Graduating 24 and with that number it is felt that the ceremony can be conducted safely for the families participating while observing current CDL guidelines. 62 are registered for fall 2021 and 20 are registered for the June summer camp. Summer camp to be divided into two groups. Camp will have bible theme (borrowed from this years' vacation bible school) and feature crafts, swimming pool and sprinklers.

Elders Report: Matt Guinn (Moved to this point in meeting due to the visitors in attendance that are present for this reason)

At the meeting held last week he welcomed the new elders that would be serving starting in July.

Transfers In – Carl and Karen Onstott

Transfers Out – Robert and Gwen DuCharme (transferring to Trinity of Fenton)
Justin and Kelly Ryckaert through self-exclusion

Motion made by Matt that effective immediately, starting with the May 23rd services, that the yellow seating placards be removed. Worshipers will be asked to follow CDC guidelines in maintaining and being aware of the 6 foot social distancing suggestion. Motion was supported by Ken. After much discussion the Board voted unanimously to pass this motion.

Motion made by Matt that for the 10:45am service that the wearing of masks would be optional while seated in the sanctuary. This to be effective June 6, 2021, provided conditions and/or guidelines remain in support of this. 8:15 service will continue to require the use of masks. Motion was supported by Sam. Following much discussion the Board voted unanimously to pass this motion.

Some of the discussion that preceded the vote included:

Signage will be posted at entrances requesting those attending to be aware of and honor the most recent guidelines for the wearing of masks.

Ushers and Elders will assist in seating worshipers if requested

Elders report was concluded

Other conversation ensued:

Pastor shared that the office staff are following the guidelines established for businesses by the CDC.

Pre-school continues to wear masks as that requirement has not been lifted.

Small group policy remains in effect as previously approved by the Board

Sarah felt that we should not be discussing at this time any other church activities outside of worship

Pastoral Report/Notes: Pastor Biermann

- Requested any feedback on the parochial report that was shared prior to the meeting.
- Shared with the Board that his book “Handing out Life” has been translated into the Amharic and Oromo languages and 9000 copies are ready and will be shared with the Church leaders within the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. Pastor trained Rev. Zegeye Hambissa this past Saturday on how to distribute the book and he and two others will be going over in June and July to train and distribute the book. Plans call for up to half a million leaders of the church will be trained in the principles that God intended concerning relationships and how to walk in the ways of Christ more closely. Follow up visits by Pastor Biermann and others in February 2022 are under consideration with the purpose being to continue their education and training in how to use it even better. The hope is that approximately a year following the follow up training that the full 10 million of the congregation would have received training and be able to carry on from there on their own. Pastor brings this up as he may be coming to the board in the future to:
 - Request permission to return to Ethiopia to provide this training
 - A request may be forthcoming for some funds in support of continuing the training
- Grand Blanc Outreach is still looking for a site to work out of. Are working with FISH and Holy Family Outreach at this time and hope that within the next month they find out how much and what type of support these groups will provide. Pastor may also, in the

future, be asking the board what type of support Faith Lutheran would be willing to offer for this Outreach.

Presidents Report: Bruce Trevithick

- Thanked the outgoing Board members, Laurie, Heather and Phil
- No June Board Meeting

V.P. Property & Maintenance: Sam Siegel

- Middle of June or towards the end the Courtyard between the pre-school and the nursery will be under repair. Project will take approximately one week to complete.

V.P. Salary & Personnel: Chris Vanlandeghem

- Nothing new at this time to report

V.P. Finance & Stewardship: Ken Duetsch

- Reviewed the financial statements. Revenue is ahead of budget and expenses are lagging behind budget. (All statements on file in the Church office)
- Ken stated that Alicen is doing a great job with the program and maintaining the financials.

Board Reports & Requests:

Youth Board: Jenny Mervyn

- Held second Bible trivia night a couple of Fridays ago.
- Parent forum
- Friday night hangouts starting again
- Monthly check-in will be tomorrow (May 20th)
- Thursday before Memorial weekend event is planned for middle school and high school youth at the Church

Outreach & Evangelism: Sarah Palmer

- She and Krissa are collaborating together to provide a presence at GB Family Fun Fest in early June (10th – 13th).

Worship: Laurie Crawford

- Appreciated being on the board for the past four years
- Has seen the board change in so many ways. The Boards use to follow the job responsibilities outlined in the constitution but have drifted away from that and we either need to revisit and edit the constitution or we need to realign the boards' areas of responsibility with the constitution, When she took the position with the Worship Board she thought that she would have been involved with the planning of worship and that has never been the case. In the past few weeks she has not been involved with the Elders discussion and decisions that concerned worship. Concerned with the direction that a lot of the boards have taken and that we have an overabundance of entertainment and fun and games, rather than serious teaching of the Bible. We are leaving that to the pastors but we all have a role in that

- Will work with the incoming chair to help with the budget and other duties

Communication & Publicity: Krissa Zander

- Working with Sara and will have a table setup at GB Family Fun Fest. Table will be on the High School property. Will have pamphlets and a banner as part of the setup. Seeking donations of summer fun things which can be given out.

Congregational Ministry: Heather Vance

- Coming up – Nature walk/Bird Watching at Kensington Park
 - Will start with a devotional
- Coming up – Father/Son mountain biking event
- Ice Crème Social following a June 10:45am service to honor all those who helped with the education and training of the youth through Sunday School and the Wednesday evening K-5th grade programs. This to honor the teachers and the kids.
- VBS will be conducted both at the Faith Church facility as well as neighborhood groups.

Joel Zander also spoke on VBS:

- All children and volunteers will be asked to wear a mask
- Board policies will be followed
 - No more than 100 in the sanctuary
 - No more than 25 in other areas of the church
 - Snacks and games will be outside
- Dates for VBS are July 26th – 30th
- Music, videos and program activities will be recorded and available on line through the Church's YouTube channel through the end of the year. License has been paid for through that period.

Social Ministry: Marcy Montez

- No Report

Roundtable & Announcements: No additional items were shared.

Bruce closed the meeting with prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm

Next meeting is July 19, 2021 @ 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Phillip W. Whitmer