

Faith Lutheran Church  
Board of Directors Minutes  
August 20, 2018

**Present:** Pastor Biermann, Phil Whitmer, Marcia Gauthier, Craig Hubert, Suzanne Perreault, Stephany Hall, Laurie Crawford, John Crawford, Jennifer Hocken, Sam Siegel, Aaron Gulyas

**Absent:** Andy Priestap, Laura Mulligan

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

Meeting was called to order at 7:02P.M. with prayer from Pastor Biermann and a quick synopsis of Faith's "Sowing Seeds" theme starting this fall and culminating in his sabbatical during the summer of 2019.

**Secretary's Report:** Marcia Gauthier

- Minutes from the July 16<sup>th</sup> meeting were presented and reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by John, seconded by Craig. Motion was passed.

**Pastoral Report/Notes:**Pastor Biermann

- Parochial report review- Pastor Biermann's amount of hours spent in counseling others often is difficult to accurately calculate (phone calls, emails and more) and attendance compared to this month in 2017 was up 7%.
- An update on the Grand Blanc Faith Community Outreach Organization and its efforts to help those in need in our community was provided. 501C3 approval is still needed to move forward. Names of churches involved in the organization were provided and Stephany mentioned the potential for Faith's social ministry and food pantry to be involved. This organization is different than Grand Blanc's FISH program.
- The sabbatical for 2019 is still planned.
- Both Pastor and Heather will be taking part in an extensive program through the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC). ACBC trains in ministering the Word of God while counseling. This will take approximately two years and is different than Stephen Ministries.
- Nominations for synod offices- if anyone has ideas for names please let Phil know. John mentioned that some names have been recommended by certain groups supporting certain nominees. As a congregation we could decide at our annual congregational meeting. Greg Baehr and Pastor Biermann will be our delegates to vote for Synodical President.
- Pastor Biermann shared many of the highlights of the new Luther's Small Catechism *With Explanation*. Specific additions to the book were identified and questions were answered. This version will be used this fall for youth confirmation instruction.

**President's Report:** Phil Whitmer

- A planned change to our Constitution to Section 2, Part C, Item 3.d is still in the process to reflect that for financial purposes, Parish Nursing will be managed under Social Ministry instead of Congregational Ministry. John Koke has volunteered to lead this.
- Requested that the weekly scripture readings for the following Sunday be placed in both the Faith Walk and Faith Happenings so that people can become familiar with them before services.
- We currently have 94 students enrolled for pre-school starting in September.
- Laurie asked for updates and how the congregation can help with two former preschool members that have been on our prayer list for years. Pastor provided an update. Discussed the need to possibly help these families more as a congregation.

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

- The church offices were painted.
- We have many books in the library and nobody to tend to them at this time. Suggestions of what to do with the overflow are welcome.
- A friendly reminder-Please remember to check all doors and lights before leaving the building.

**V. P. Salary & Personnel:** Aaron Gulyas

- A new list of office staff responsibilities for Brooke, Carol, Dale and Marcia, effective September 1, 2018, was provided and discussed. This will result in a savings of approximately \$6,000 a year.
- A motion to approve the proposal for the updating of office staff responsibilities and associated hourly rates, as presented by the Executive Committee was made by Aaron, seconded by Laurie. Motion was passed.

**V. P. Finance & Stewardship:** John Crawford

- There is an excess of 4 months of operating cash on hand.
- There is a great need for more tellers.
- There is a need for a Financial Recording Secretary (4 to 5 hours/week) in the future as Amber Petzold will not be able to stay on long term.
- For those in charge of budgets, please look over items carefully and prepare to have a "line to line" itemization in the future.
- There was a request to possibly print the financial status in the Faith Walk and Faith Happenings in the future.
- Phil inquired about the Guatemala funds and other mission work budgets and John said he would clarify their guidelines with Marge.
- Steph asked about allowing preschool parents to pay for tuition on line. John mentioned that it would be a big endeavor but something we could look at.
- Pastor Biermann noted that Pastor Scott is going to be heading stewardship education this Fall.

**BOARD REPORTS/REQUESTS:**

**Elders:** Craig Hubert

- Elders are currently working on contacting members who have not been in attendance for some time to see if they should be transferred elsewhere or removed from our membership roles.

**Outreach & Evangelism:** Suzanne Perreault

- Faith is sponsoring a hole at the FAM golf outing September 8th.
- Guatemala accomplishments and how to continue to support the team's efforts were shared with the congregation during the second Sunday celebration on August 12th.
- A possible campaign to help 57 families in Guatemala, who have suffered greatly from the volcano devastation there, is in discussion.
- Tailgating on Faith's front lawn for the Grand Blanc homecoming parade is planned for October 5th.
- Coordinating of efforts with the BCM for some events is underway.

**Worship:** Laurie Crawford

- The altar guild teams are doing a great job. Accolades to Linda Robinson.
- There is often a lot of wine leftover from Communion and must be discarded. Laurie asked Craig to revisit this with the elders.
- There has been an increase in the worship funds spent due to the increase in Communion being provided.
- Thermostats need to be checked more often. The elders know where they are and have been asked to check them more often before and after services.

**Communication & Publicity:** Laura Mulligan, absent, no report

**Congregational Ministry:** Jennifer Hocken

- The new BCM had their first meeting on 8/13/18.
- Jenny was elected as chair-person and Carrie Sabo was elected vice-chairperson.
- Trunk or Treat will be October 12th and will include a food-drive.
- Discussion occurred regarding the process of follow-up for the contact cards at Trunk or Treat.
- BCM will be helping with a MI District Family Friendly Partner Network event at Faith on 9/22.
- BCM is always looking for new ideas, including more community service type events.
- Coffee hour was cancelled last week due to a lack of help and there are billing issues with Dawn Donuts. Jenny is diligently working on this.
- A new pictorial directory is in the beginning stages.
- Laurie expressed the need for more small group Bible studies by those blessed to lead others to help out the pastors. Jenny reviewed the list of offerings for this fall and may create a flyer asking for specific needs.

**Social Ministry:** Stephany Hall

- Met with Nancy Cottam recently to review her new role as chair of Social Ministry.
- The Social Ministry budget will be reviewed upon the opening of the new Grand Blanc Faith Community Outreach Organization.

**Youth Board:** Andy Priestap, absent-letter provided by Jason

- Reminder of Catechism retreat in September.
- Working on "back to school" events.
- Pros and cons of having an intern with Jason this summer were shared.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- None

**ROUNDTABLE:**

- Marcia will follow up on the Ally Challenge fundraising efforts.
- Marcia mentioned that members are interested in having Faith "spirit wear" and will talk to Laura about this effort.
- Phil noted again that September 5<sup>th</sup> is the first Fall Wednesday Night Alive and September 9<sup>th</sup> is Kickoff Sunday.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

None

Closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 9:41P.M.  
Next meeting is 9/17/18 at 7:00 P.M. in the library.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcia Gauthier, Secretary