

Faith Lutheran Church
Board of Directors Minutes
January 15, 2018

Present: Pastor Biermann, Phil Whitmer, Carol Arends, Craig Hubert, John Crawford, Laurie Crawford, Andy Priestap, Aaron Gulyas, Nancy Cottam, Laura Mulligan, Sam Siegel, Brad Smith.

Absent: Suzanne Perreault.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 P.M. with a devotion by Pastor Biermann from 1 Samuel 3 with his declaration of "Here I am." And from John 3: 4 which speaks to walking in truth. Pastor offered a special thanks to all the board for their willingness to serve.

Secretary's Report: Brad Smith

- Minutes from the December 18th meeting were presented and reviewed. There were two corrections: Under VP Finance and Stewardship that the financial audit committee reviewed the 2016 fiscal year, not the past three years. Also to correct the spelling of Jason's last name under Youth Board. A motion to approve the amended minutes was made by John, seconded by Aaron. Motion was passed.

Pastoral Report/Notes: Pastor Biermann

- December's attendance was up 9% over December of 2016, even noting the different times for the holiday worship services. Also reviewed the breakdown of the various Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services and attendance differences.
- He had a good meeting with the FISH Group in Grand Blanc. The initial meeting went very well discussing ways the various community welfare groups could coordinate efforts.

President's Report: Phil Whitmer

- The Congregational Forum is scheduled for January 20th beginning at 9:00 A.M. Reviewed agenda topics and encouraged board members to be represented at each table to foster discussion and take notes on comments/suggestions.
- Annual Congregational Meeting will take place January 28th at noon.
- Went over the potential congregational nominations for the LCMS Michigan District elections at the June convention. Reviewed a potential list of candidates (attached).
- The congregation received a request for nominees for an opening of president of Concordia University in Irvine, California. After discussion, there was a motion by Carol with a second by John to nominate Dr. Mark L. Biermann, who is currently the Provost at Valparaiso University, for the position. The motion was passed.

V.P. Property & Maintenance: Sam Siegel

- Faith has hired Brady Business Systems to a computer system maintenance contract.
- There have been some ongoing plumbing issues - some drips and leaks of various faucets and pipes. They are being worked on and he's hopeful that it's not a major inconvenience for anyone.
- A reminder to please lock doors and turn off lights when groups are done at the church.

V. P. Salary & Personnel: Aaron Gulyas

- There was a decision made to raise the starting wages for preschool assistants up to the new minimum wage level for Michigan.

V. P. Finance & Stewardship: John Crawford

- December revenues were up and so as of the end of December we have approximately 3.2 months' worth of operating funds on hand.
- Reading of the 2018 housing allowances into the minutes. A copy is attached.
- Discussion of payment for funeral dinners being made from the funeral fund. Suggestion that a policy needs to be in place to handle staff members or their family's funerals. Agreement to work on getting one set up.
- The endowment committee will meet on January 24th.
- Deferred the financial audit committee review that was discussed at the December meeting until our March Board meeting.

- Nominating committee will be forming in February. The known open positions are VP of Finance and Stewardship, Social Ministry, Outreach & Evangelism, Communication & Publicity, Youth, Secretary, 12 Elders and six members of the Congregational Ministry Board.
- 2018-2019 budget discussion. Reviewed that last month's preliminary budget showed an approximate deficit of \$87,500. Because of the increased giving in December and some other modifications, it currently is showing a deficit of \$43,816. John has had a number of discussions with Church Extension Fund about refinancing Faith's mortgage. He then reviewed a proposal that if we went forward with the mortgage refinance, we would have a projected surplus of \$15,092. After further discussion, there was a motion by Laurie and a second by Laura to adopt the corrected handout Exhibit C (attached) for recommendation to the congregation.

BOARD REPORTS/REQUESTS:

Elders: Craig Hubert

- No report.

Outreach & Evangelism: Suzanne Perreault, absent

- No report.

Worship: Laurie Crawford

- Stated she would get security information she had obtained from another congregation to Sam regarding church security.
- Requested the ability to attend Elders' meeting and/or staff meetings to get more information and provide more input into worship. Pastor indicated that she could possibly attend the beginning of the staff meetings and they could discuss any worship related items then.

Communication & Publicity: Laura Mulligan

- Still looking for items to highlight from the boards. Please share any ideas with her.
- Presented idea of a three time per year newsletter to be published for Faith to, in particular, celebrate the previous four months' activities and achievements by groups such as youth, congregational ministry, etc.

Congregational Ministry: Carol Arends

- Reviewed an application for a fundraiser from the American Heritage Girls for girls' merit badges. The request is for them to be able to sell tickets ahead of time for a meal at Nuevo Vallarta Mexican restaurant. It's planned for Monday, February 19th from 5 to 8 PM. A motion was made by Aaron to approve the fundraiser, seconded by Laura and the motion passed.

Social Ministry: Nancy Cottam

- The final count on the Christmas baskets distributed was 26 and there were 23 baskets distributed for the home-bound.

Youth Board: Andy Priestap

- The Spring Hill retreat went well.
- They're changing the names of youth board meetings to just "youth meetings" to get more parent involvement. Some of the parents thought that they needed to be board members to attend.
- They now have hangout time. No scheduled activities, but just an opportunity for the youth to get together. They have short devotion and socialize. They had one this past week where 30 youth attended so they are planning on doing these monthly.

NEW BUSINESS:

- None

ROUNDTABLE:

- None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Forum – January 20th 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
- Congregational Meeting: January 28, 2018 @ 12:00 P.M.
- January 15, 2018 Board Meeting at 7:00 P.M.

| Pastor closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 P.M.

| Respectfully submitted,
Brad Smith, Secretary