

Faith Lutheran Church
Board of Directors Minutes
March 18th, 2019

Present: Pastor Biermann, Phil Whitmer, Marcia Gauthier, Craig Hubert, John Crawford, Andy Priestap, Sam Siegel, Jennifer Hocken, Pastor Scott, Aaron Gulyas, Laura Mulligan

Absent: Suzanne Perreault, Laurie Crawford, Stephany Hall

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with devotion and prayer from Pastor Biermann focusing on Mark 14:8 and the preparation for His burial and the anointment of His body by Mary. He stressed that what we do to try to help IS pleasing to God because he has already done all the work for us. We shouldn't be worried that we are not doing things perfectly.

Secretary's Report: Marcia Gauthier

- Minutes from the February 18th, 2019 meeting were presented and reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Aaron, seconded by Laura. Motion was passed.

Pastoral Report/Notes: Pastor Biermann

- Reviewed the February Parochial Report. There was an increase in attendance for all Sundays during the month of February 2019 compared to 2018. A decrease in attendance for all Wednesdays of 2019, as compared to 2018, was recorded. In February of 2018 Lent started a lot earlier (February 14th) than in 2019, which most likely increased the numbers for those Wednesdays. The second Wednesday of February 2019 was cancelled due to weather.
- Explained that the What's Faith? class has 8 people enrolled and a few are becoming Lutheran.
- Updated the status of the Grand Blanc Area Faith Community Outreach. 5013C status has been approved and now the organization can seek contributions. An initial goal for funding the project this year is \$1,000,000. A copy of their flyer was distributed (exhibit A). Volunteers are needed for the following positions: Grant Writer, Web Developer, Ally Challenge Birdies for Charity chairperson. Pastor Scott recommended that the GBAFCO seek input from Marcy Montez regarding grant writing because of her experience with a grant writer for Franklin Avenue Mission.
- Updated his efforts as Circuit Visitor to Pilgrim LCMS in Burton and their pastoral needs. They have decided to call an interim pastor for one year and will most likely become a dual congregation within a year. Marcia asked if there are a lot of interim pastors available and Pastor Biermann suggested approximately 50 or so in the state.
- Updated the board on the situation regarding having a "comfort dog" present during services and other events and where we are with the development of a policy.

President's Report: Phil Whitmer

- Explained that the update on the Call Committee process for the Director of Education and Youth would be provided by Craig.
- Revisited the comfort dog concerns and reviewed the Comfort Dog Policy draft from the Ministerial Health and Wellness Committee.
 - Pastor Scott shared some things he learned about comfort dogs at the Best Practices conference in Arizona.
 - Sam shared what he learned from Kroger's HR department.
 - Jenny asked about having dogs in food preparation areas, the nursery and near the altar at Communion time.
 - John asked about Faith's insurance policy covering any incident and Pastor Biermann explained our coverage.

- A motion to approve the Faith Comfort Dog policy, with written changes to reflect that dogs would be allowed in the rear of the sanctuary only during services and would not be allowed in food preparation areas or the nursery, was made by Aaron, seconded by Craig. Motion was passed.

V.P. Property & Maintenance: Sam Siegel

- The B.A.L.L. Tournament was a great success.
 - Approximately \$1700 was collected at the door. Faith most likely broke even.
 - \$400 was made in concessions for the youth.
 - Concussion protocol paperwork was made available to all coaches.
- Replaced all 400 lights with 120 watt LED bulbs which should decrease lighting expenses by 60%. At this time last year we had used 12,000 kilowatts and this year so far we have used 8,000.
- Faith received a \$1,000 donation for gym lighting and a consumer rebate of approximately \$400.
- The building is experiencing a number of plumbing problems.
- Children need to be monitored during Second Sunday Celebration breakfasts. Damage has occurred.

V. P. Salary & Personnel: Aaron Gulyas

- Announced that Emily Crow has accepted the position of Director of Music. Specific job duties are to be determined yet and then Emily will sign her contract. Sue's hours will change as of May 1, 2019.

V. P. Finance & Stewardship: John Crawford

- Reviewed financial report and stated that there is 4.5 to 5 months of operating cash on hand.
- Pastor Biermann asked about the status of scholarships for seminary students. John explained that if Faith awards a scholarship to a student it does not take away from the student's guaranteed tuition. It can go toward their other expenses.
- Updated efforts of the Nominating Committee. There is a notice in the Faith Walk scheduled for 3/17-3/31 in order to seek nominations and another announcement for 4/7 to remind the congregation of the due date and when to vote. Voting will take place 4/27 and 4/28. We need 14 Elders and there are several individuals considering the position.
- Provided a synopsis of the meeting on 3/11 with Rev. Jones, Head of Mission, regarding Rev. Khumalo's visit to the U.S. and the letter from the Michigan District requesting financial assistance to help with his time here.
 - John feels as though the original letter with the job description of Rev. Khumalo's time here was misleading. People are already being pulled in many directions to donate right now with the Here We Stand campaign and Guatemala. Also, there is a concern that the Here We Stand money was supposed to be used for missions and now more may be asked of members.
 - Sam asked why Rev. Khumalo was coming to the U.S. Pastor Biermann explained how he specializes in reconciliation and mission outreach.
 - John's recommendation is that we let things lie right now.

BOARD REPORTS/REQUESTS:

Elders: Craig Hubert

- Provided an update on the Call Committee progress for a Director of Education and Youth.
 - Ten names were submitted to the District office on 3/17/19.
 - Suggested questions for the candidates were also submitted.
 - It will take approximately 2 to 3 weeks to receive input from the District office regarding the list of candidates. Others may also be recommended by the District.
 - There may be youth involved in the interview process.
 - The next meeting is 4/7/19 at 6:00 p.m.

Outreach & Evangelism: Suzanne Perreault, absent-report via email

- Noted that another donation of funds in the amount of \$2,520 was made to Guatemalan families for the purchase of beans and corn.

Worship: Laurie Crawford, absent-report via John

- Easter flowers to beautify the church will be available for purchase through the Altar Guild. Linda Robinson will care for them. Connie and Chris Greene have been very helpful in finding a business to purchase the flowers at a reasonable price.

Communication & Publicity: Laura Mulligan

- No report

Congregational Ministry: Jennifer Hocken

- Noted that the Sabbatical Send-Off luncheon sign-up is now in Heins Hall. McEnrues will be cooking the meat and others are asked to sign-up for something on the list.
- A tentative Fall Kick-Off (fun fair, road rally or other activity) is scheduled for 9/15/19 or 9/22/19.
- Gretchen Pfundt is interested in offering a sewing class for all ages. Is a liability release form needed? Sam noted that Faith is covered, but a form might be helpful for parents to know the risks.

Social Ministry: Stephany Hall, absent-report via email

- Social Ministry will be gearing up for Easter dinner baskets at the beginning of April for those in need. A note in the Faith Walk will be placed soon.

Youth Board: Andy Priestap

- Noted that the youth parent meeting on 3/4/19 was successful with over 30 parents in attendance.
 - Parents signed up to lead specific age groups.
 - 5 yr. old to 2nd grade -Guinns and Cradits
 - 3rd grade thru 5th grade -Guinns and Hockens
 - Middle School (6-8) - Mervyns
 - High School (9-12) - Doyles
 - Young Adult (18-25)- Trevithicks

- Two fundraisers were completed.
 - B.A.L.L. Tournament=\$448.24
 - Trivia Night =\$1,720.00
 - All 19 NYG youth have participated in these fundraisers.
- The Easter Breakfast fundraiser is scheduled for 4/21/19. The NYG Hearts fundraiser is on-going and has already raised \$800.
- Mike Bilbey will be hosting a "youth hangout" night Friday, March 22nd. More parent involvement is needed. This is something he would like to see happen more often.
- The Men of Faith and an anonymous donor have provided a new TV for the back room of the youth lounge.
- The youth lounge is being cleaned and organized.
- Discussion occurred regarding NYG youth being "auctioned" to share their news with others while in Minnesota.

NEW BUSINESS:

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ROUNDTABLE:

- Pastor Scott highlighted what he learned at the Best Practices conference in Arizona last month, particularly addressing the session he attended about Comfort Dogs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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Closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.
Next meeting is 4/15/19 at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Gauthier, Secretary