

Faith Lutheran Church
Board of Directors Minutes
December 18, 2017

Present: Pastor Biermann, Phil Whitmer, Carol Arends, Craig Hubert, John Crawford, Laurie Crawford, Suzanne Perreault, Andy Priestap, Aaron Gulyas, Nancy Cottam, Laura Mulligan, Jason von der Lage, Brad Smith. Guest: Greg Baehr

Absent: Sam Siegel.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with a devotion by Pastor Biermann from Matthew 1:18-25. The Lord saves, the Lord our Savior. A theme of joy will flow through our Christmas Eve services. Additionally a "joy" ornament will be distributed for all families attending Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

Secretary's Report: Brad Smith

- Minutes from the November 14th meeting were presented by Brad and reviewed. One correction was noted by Nancy: Changing Social Ministry report to read "angel" tree instead of "mitten" tree. Motion to approve minutes as amended by Laurie. Nancy supported. Motion was passed.

Pastoral Report/Notes: Pastor Biermann

- November's attendance was up 6% over November of 2016.
- Fund raising idea on Family Life Center: painting a logo of the Faith Family with names of donating families on the cement blocks circling around the Family Life Center. Pastor mentioned that we're looking for someone to spearhead the project.
- A thank you to the board members for getting their summaries for the Congregational Forum to him. He will be reviewing those this week.
- There has been a gift made to Faith from the Anita Knopf estate of \$25,000. There were no restrictions specified on the gift.

President's Report: Phil Whitmer

- The Congregational Forum is scheduled for January 20th. A reminder that those who don't have summaries in yet to please do so. The agenda has been published and there will be a lot of time for and encouraging of open discussion.
- Annual Congregational Meeting will take place January 28th at noon.
- A handout (attached) was distributed with information on the endowment fund including a spreadsheet showing a current balance of \$120,613. Per John, the endowment committee is meeting in mid to late January and will be reviewing how the funds are invested.

V.P. Property & Maintenance: Sam Siegel, absent

- Laurie mentioned that the electric piano was left on and open on a couple of different occasions. She will be speaking with Sam to review video.

V. P. Salary & Personnel: Aaron Gulyas

- Aaron reported that he's working with Jason on a job description for a summer internship for youth and outreach for 2018. They will be looking for a student from Concordia Ann Arbor and the position will include a stipend of \$1,000 a month.

V. P. Finance & Stewardship: John Crawford

- We have just over 3 months' worth of operating funds on hand through November.
- The financial audit committee has completed their report. They were looking at the past three-year period. While it's not a full audit it is a thorough financial review. John stated that they did an excellent job using the Michigan District, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod guidelines. There were no significant findings found that would be cause for alarm. There were 15 recommendations, and John and Marge Taylor are meeting in January to review them point by point. John highlighted a few of them and he will fully report back at the next board meeting.
- The 2018/2019 budget discussion. John provided a handout (attached) reviewing how the proposed budget numbers were arrived at and discussed options to reduce the proposed budget deficit. Greg Baehr presented an option to refinance the current consolidated loan in order to lower our monthly payments to assist on the budget. We will consider these options and John will meet with Greg to review his proposal, and John will get the adjusted proposed budget to us in January.

BOARD REPORTS/REQUESTS:

Elders: Craig Hubert

- Ministerial health and welfare is continuing to meet and continuing to look out for staff welfare.
- Acolytes are now serving in most services on a volunteer basis.
- Christmas cards were mailed out to all members with a schedule for Advent and Christmas services and events.

Outreach & Evangelism: Suzanne Perreault

- First WAVE grant was awarded for outreach.
- They are getting some response for additional leadership assistance for Faith's commitment to Franklin Avenue.

Worship: Laurie Crawford

- She questioned a \$315 fee for prerecorded videos. There was a discussion about how copyright laws require it, and they do significantly use these videos and material in many areas of ministry.
- Laurie is working through the questions she raised last month regarding the responsibilities of the Worship Committee.
- Follow up on the Communion situation: She has talked with Sue Pontin, and Sue and three others are willing to assist and the communication is getting much better.

Communication & Publicity: Laura Mulligan

- She's looking for input from board members for ideas to highlight once a month in Faith Walk.
- There are now key chains, pens and notebooks available in the office that have the Faith logo and information on them.

Congregational Ministry: Carol Arends

- The poinsettia sale is complete and there are 37 poinsettias that are being displayed in the sanctuary. They will be distributed to the donors after the December services have completed.
- The men's dance only had 45 people attend. That attendance level was disappointing and they are looking for new ideas for next year.

Social Ministry: Nancy Cottam

- All of the angels from the angel tree were taken so very good support.
- There were 23 Thanksgiving baskets distributed.
- They are putting together food baskets for 16 shut-ins for Christmas.
- The quilting group is having their final meeting December 4th. They don't have anyone to take over leading the group so for the time being they will no longer be meeting.

Youth Board: Andy Priestap & Jason von der Loge

- More parents are attending and stepping up and participating, which is a great sign.
- There were 62 in attendance at the Nerf wars.
- There were close to 100 people at the youth Christmas party, so they're having some excellent turnouts. They are revamping the Faith Legacy program, and have a new grandparent segment that they are kicking off.

NEW BUSINESS:

- None

ROUNDTABLE:

- Nancy indicated that the Young at Heart group was holding a Christmas luncheon the next day at Warwick Country Club and they had an unexpected opening for two if there was anyone interested in attending.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- January 15, 2018 Board Meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Pastor closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 9:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Brad Smith, Secretary