

Faith Lutheran Church
Board of Directors Minutes
March 15, 2021

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

Absent: All were present

Guests: Cindy Gulyas (Pre School Staff)

Meeting was called to order at 7:02pm with devotion and prayer led by Pastor Biermann. Pastor's message focused on John 3:16, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.* That this is an incredible gift that we can have and that we can share as well, with anyone, anywhere. It can never be taken away from us. Nothing that ever happens in this world can change that. Each and every one of us that has the gospel in our heart, has that power. So as Pastor says, don't just carry it around in our pocket, pull it out, light it and throw it and see what God will do. Let the gospel go, it is God's power (not our power). Pastor then offered prayer.

Guest Presentation: Cindy Gulyas

- Bruce introduced Cindy to the Board and invited her to share with us. Cindy briefed us on what they are doing for Lutheran School Week.
 - On 3/16 the preschool children will get to have their first chapel with the Pastor. The 2-year-olds actually got to attend today (March 15th). Sharing songs and praying. Very well behaved and attentive.
 - Wednesday and Thursday putting together care packages for local Law Enforcement.
 - Doing classroom color day on Friday where everyone wears the colors of the classroom that they are in.
 - Friday night the green room has a gym night. Families will be able to gather while children enjoy organized playtime. Megan and Cindy to facilitate.

Secretary's Report: Phillip Whitmer

- Minutes from the February 15, 2021 were presented. After brief review, which included a discussion concerning the sanctuary doors, motion was made by Sam to accept the minutes as presented. Motion was supported by Chris. All voted in favor and minutes were approved.

Pastoral Report/Notes: Pastor Biermann

- Requested any feedback on the parochial report that was shared prior to the meeting.
- Numbers attending worship are creeping up bit by bit. Seating is becoming an issue but everyone is concentrating on using space as economically as possible while still maintaining safe distancing. For Easter, ushers and elders will work to maintain the safe distancing protocols while at same time economizing on the space available. Chairs will be available just outside the sanctuary and Heins Hall and the music room will be open as well with the television monitors on.
- Work continues for planning ahead. Staff meeting scheduled for end of April to plan for Fall 2021. Plan will be aggressive and move ahead. Will use what we have learned over the past year and incorporate it into “live” worship as it fits.
- Pastor Mandla Khumalo passed recently. Pastor Biermann has been in touch with President Maier and there is a possibility that Pastor and his wife, Heather, may be asked to return to his country, South Africa, when it opens up to offer assistance where it may be needed. Discussion ensued with questions about why our pastor, how long, etc. Pastor said the when and for how long has not been determined. Purpose of their trip, should they be asked to go, would be to provide support and encouragement (not to run the church) Pastor has also been conversing with Mandla’s son and also the young Associate Pastor, Mangoba, who will be in charge at the church, and working with him as much as possible. Pastor brought this up just as a “heads up” in case it should come to fruition down the road. Pastor and his wife have both had their COVID vaccinations.
- Equality Act summary was shared with the board in advance of the meeting. Copy is on file in the office. Illustrates that we are not overstepping our boundaries as a church when entering in the political arena but that we are merely working to protect our rights to gather and worship freely without hindrance from the government. Currently as written, this act would undermine those very principals. Pastor asked us to read this summary and be informed of any future actions taken in moving this act forward. Pastor has a lot more resources for anyone that is interested in learning more.

Presidents Report: Bruce Trevithick

- Expanding activities within the Church. This would still be in keeping with recent updates by both the CDC and State of Michigan recommendations. Would like to increase gatherings to a maximum of 25 as long as a member of Faith is in attendance and responsible. Sarah made the motion to increase activity within the church to a max of 25 with responsible Faith member in attendance. Jenny supported the motion. Board voted unanimously in support of this and motion was passed.
- Discussed possibility of the church serving as a host for providing vaccines. Discussion was held. Bruce indicated that the Executive Committee is just checking to make sure that the board is in support of this. Subject will be investigated further and brought back to the board in April. Bruce will ask Christie Hansard to pursue.
- Changes/updates to authorized signatures to the endowment fund are recommended. Currently Roger Swain and John Crawford are the authorized persons. Motion was made by Matt to remove Roger and John as authorized signees for the endowment fund and instead add Ken Duetsch and Greg Baehr as authorized signees for the same. Additionally, Greg would be the sole person authorized to conduct any trading online, while Ken would be able to do so on the phone if needed on behalf of this fund. Also,

Alicen Dub would have a “read only” access to the account. Motion was seconded by Marcy. Vote was unanimous and motion passed.

V.P. Property & Maintenance: Sam Siegel

- Just performing normal maintenance. Roof is doing well.

V.P. Salary & Personnel: Chris Vanlandeghem

- Looking into giving small bonuses to the preschool staff in appreciation of the work and extra effort they have put forth during the past few months.
- Also recognizing Cathy Cronkright’s tenure with the preschool.

V.P. Finance & Stewardship: Ken Duetsch

- Reported on the work of the nominating committee. All board positions are represented. Matt indicated that the open Elder positions will be represented in full as well. Board of Congregational Ministry needs one more name to be fully represented.
- Reviewed the financial statements. Statements were for first month of the new budget year. Discussion held regarding some of the headers, but numbers were not debated. Ken indicates that they are battling QuickBooks on some of these changes and will continue to refine and edit.
 - Income was positive to budgeted number.
 - Expenses were negative to budgeted number (lower than what was budgeted)
 - Fund balance sheet was presented and reviewed
- Ken stated that the intention is to use a corporate credit card, as much as is possible, to pay for church expenses. This would provide an easier process for accounts payable as well as giving higher visibility to activity within the expense accounts. In order to do this Fifth Third is asking that the board authorize and approve a formal application for corporate credit cards. Matt made the motion to apply for corporate credit cards through Fifth Third. Motion was supported by Laurie. Discussion was held concerning limits and authorized use. Chris elaborated on the flexibility that a corporate card can have. Ken will follow up with the concerns and have a response for the next meeting. Call for the Vote was made, vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Motion was passed.

Board Reports & Requests:

Youth Board: Jenny Mervyn

- 6 youth and parents participated in the first Bible Trivia on Zoom
- First senior high youth meeting was held yesterday at the Gauthiers. Event was a bonfire in their backyard. 14 youth attended
- Middle school will meet in April. Event to be hosted by the Sorgenfrei’s
- Youth check ins via zoom continue. Another one is scheduled for March 16th.
- Friday night hangouts on Zoom once a month also continue
- Events and communication with the youth are via a youth page in Facebook, Faith Happenings and the Sunday morning board.

Elders: Matt Guinn

- Nominating Committee Report
 - 14 committed
 - 2 more willing to do it
 - Others considering
- Drive through Communion participation is dropping. Considering going to 1st Sunday of the month only. Formal decision to be made at a later date.
- Easter seating mentioned.

Outreach & Evangelism: Sarah Palmer

Nothing to Report

Worship: Laurie Crawford

- Laurie sought to contribute to the discussion of Dr. Harrison's comments on the Equality Act which has passed in the House. She expressed, "We must stand against that law insofar as it threatens Biblical Marriage/Sex identity, personal conscience, and the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. She is fearful that liars in the Press and the government are seriously undermining the basis of Godly government with the Equality Act. In her lifetime she has never heard such egregious distortions of Truth. Both Old and New Testament prophets denounced and warned God's people about following liars. Indeed, Satan is called the Father of Lies. He disguises himself as an angel of light, but is really the prince of darkness. We must certainly be wary and speak up with God's Words boldly to steer our nation from God's fearsome judgement!"
 - Bruce responded that we are blessed to be Christians and to be supportive of each other
 - Pastor Biermann let us know that on April 18th it is a special Sunday designated as the "Here I Stand" Sunday in commemoration of the day when Luther stated that "I cannot and will not recant, because my conscience constrains me and here I stand, I can do no other."

Communication & Publicity: Krissa Zander

- Postcards were mailed out last week. Discusses the Easter schedule and what else is coming up
- Arranged for the church to be a sponsor of the Grand Blanc Parks and Recreation Easter Egg hunt, scheduled for March 17. She'll have a table setup and has some handouts to pass along. Volunteers are being sought
- Using Facebook to get out the message concerning Faith's Easter Egg hunt. Message only going to those persons that have "liked" Faith's Facebook page in hopes of keeping the numbers that attend to a manageable size.

Congregational Ministry: Heather Vance

- Reviewed the upcoming Easter Egg hunt.
 - 9:45am music
 - 10:00am Skit
 - Easter Egg hunt to follow the conclusion of the skit
- For upcoming possible events in the spring
 - Mountain biking (Father/Son event?)
 - Feeding the birds in Kensington Park
 - Ice cream social following one of the late services
- Bruce brought up the Petzold family and our support of them as Carl continues his seminary education at CTS in Fort Wayne, IN. Needs a motion and approval from the board to continue with this support which has been budgeted. Motion to support the Petzold family in the amount of \$4500 was made by Laurie, supported by Ken and passed by the board.

Social Ministry: Marcy Montez

- Easter gift cards will be distributed this year instead of the normal baskets.
- Has met with Christie Hansard and they have reinstated the meals program. Currently looking for volunteers that would provide a meal when needed. Becky Belill will coordinate the program.

Roundtable & Announcements:

- Bruce had discussion with Ray Zavada concerning the capital campaign that was approved at the Voters' Meeting in January. Ray indicated that now (or the fall) would not be the best time to start this campaign. Bruce stated that the start of this campaign will be delayed.

Bruce closed the meeting with prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm

Next meeting is April 19, 2021 @ 7:00pm via ZOOM

Respectfully submitted,

Phillip W. Whitmer