



Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

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THE REVEREND DR. PHYLLIS K. MILTON INTERIM SENIOR MINISTER OF WORD AND SACRAMENT
MS. LINDA K. ROBINSON HEAD OF SCHOOL
MR. EARNEST S. ATKINS CONGREGATION COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Congregational Council Meeting

January 22, 2019

Luther Library, 7:00 P.M.

Members Present

Ernie Atkins, President
Jason Green, Vice President
Rita Foringer
Pastor Phyllis Milton
Todd Pfahl
Dan Singer
Aaron Sutherland
Garth Wallis
Barry Zorumski

Michael Canny, Congregational Secretary

Members Excused

Alison Philips

Members Absent

Staff Present

Rick Graves, Administrator
John Lowe, Director of Buildings and Grounds (Introduced by Ernie, commended for his performance thus far)
Linda Robinson, Head of School
Peggy Sipes, Pastor's Executive Assistant

Treasurer

Dawn Lomax--present

Call To Order

Ernie, at 7:00 P.M.

Opening Devotions

Nehemiah, Chapter, 8, by Pastor Milton

Old Business

Review of Minutes:

Motion made and carried to approve as written

Financial Reports Review: (Rick Graves)

Looking good overall, December was better than November in terms of offerings, partially due to end of year lump sum giving, which is normal. Christmas tree sales did well, but we may need to raise the price next year, as Slaughter Co. has raised their prices. Expenses continue to show saving in some areas, and some parishioners have donated services and not asked for reimbursement. Rick advised that this was being tracked, so that we would be prepared for the expense in the next budget, and was also being applied towards their pledges. Motion made, seconded and carried to accept financial reports as presented.

Treasurer Comments: (Dawn)

Nothing further to add, although she cautioned that furloughs may affecting giving as we move forward.

Sunrise House Update: (Rick)

Situation with VA appears to be improving at this point.

Nave Doors Update: (Pastor Milton)

Will be repaired by John Lowe and Bo Lomax. Ernie requested the repairs be made prior to Easter.

Stewardship: (Garth Wallis)

Preparing for next steps, after updated list of received pledges is reviewed.

Shepherd/Visitation: (Ernie)

All council members were encouraged to continue to support their assigned groups.

Recap Of Holiday Activities:

Consensus is that overall, the season went very well. Christmas Eve breakfast at the church was very well received. 5:00 P.M. Christmas Eve service had quite a few older adults attending who wanted to avoid going out later in the evening. Attendance at the 11:00 P.M. service was sparse—only 76 people, including choir and servers. There was some discussion as to whether we needed to continue to have three services on Christmas Eve This will be discussed further in a future meeting.

School and Church Audit:

Garth has several names, and he will be contacting them to schedule an initial meeting.

Security Considerations:

The school bears a significant portion of the costs in this area, and Linda Robinson stated that there are not any funds available for additional efforts right now. Mike Canny brought up that he had seen doors propped open when he approached for this meeting, and advised that in his experience, this practice was not a safe one. Ernie will make contact with event organizers regarding this.

Habitat House Build: (Ernie)

A ‘build out’ event will be held on April 13th, where portions of the house will be constructed at Gloria Dei then moved to the actual site of the house.

New Business:

Glorioso’s, 2/9: (Ernie)

Ticket sales have begun.

Vision Workshop, 2/10: (Pastor Milton)

As a part of preparation for our next pastor, there will be 60 minute Vision workshop immediately following services, looking at who we were, who we are, and what we want to become. Areas to be discussed are growth, outreach, and current membership being “over-volunteered.”

The Mansion and Harris Creek Properties–Lease/Repair Proposition: (Ernie)

Both of these properties are currently vacant, and both need work. John and Carolyn Campbell have approached Council and are willing to lease the properties from the

church, renovate them, and then sublease them to appropriate renters. They would recoup their investment through their sublease of the properties and upon recouping such investment, rental proceeds collected would be returned to the church. Rick mentioned that we would have to be careful regarding who ultimately rented the properties, because of their proximity to the school, and he also advised that we would lose our current tax exemption for the properties if they were leased out. However, the expense would be significant if we were to engage a contractor to do the work. There would be no initial outlay needed by the church if the Campbells do the work. Ernie advised that he had seen other properties that the Campbells have renovated, and he knows they are selective regarding renters. After additional discussion, a motion was made to accept this offer, pending reparation of appropriate documentation. Motion carried.

Farewell Event—Marie Bliss, 4/7:

The choir will take the lead for this event, which would be held on April 7, 2019, after worship to avoid conflict with Holy Week. Marie's last day will be Easter Sunday. She has offered to assist in finding her replacement. A committee for this purpose will consist of Dan Singer, Zach Scherer, Carolyn Campbell, Sharon Padula, and Susan Smith. Dan will take the lead in regard to contacting members he has not already spoken with.

Synod Stewardship Training Event: (Pastor Milton)

There will be a stewardship training event on March 23 from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. which will be streamed on-line. Pastor Milton would like to see our Stewardship Committee attend in some manner.

Shepherding Reports

Worship: (Jason Green)

We need to be prepared for the expense of interim musicians once Marie departs. Additional volunteers to assist with worship. In regard to security, they are already locking the doors approximately 15 minutes after the service ends, but the last person out needs to be doubly sure that all doors, particularly the main entrance, are secure. Arrangements are being made to work on the lighting panel, which still has issues. Attendance numbers averaged annually have dropped over the past several years.

Christian Education/Youth: (Barry)

John Campbell has switched roles with Barry Hutchison, who is now Scoutmaster. Nothing else to report.

Care & Bible Studies: (Rita and Dan)

Nothing new to report. Night's Welcome preparations are proceeding well.

Community Fellowship: (Aaron & Todd)

Nothing new to report.

School Operations: (Ernie and Linda Robinson)

Mike Riley has stepped up to assist in the process of locating and hiring a new internet manager. They are at the second interview stage and hope to hire someone within two weeks.

The final report for the 2017-2018 year was presented, which was mostly positive. Enrollment was actually about 20 students over projections, which had a positive effect on the budget. However, the costs of a new roof (\$80,560) and A/C replacements (\$23,000) had to be covered by withdrawals from savings—the overall loss for the year was \$8,416. Rick mentioned that it was important that we continue to plan ahead and maintain adequate reserves in this regard.

Linda advised that an overview of this year will be prepared for the next meeting, so that decisions could be made in regard to any increases in fees. Enrollment has declined this year, especially following some military transfers that took place around Christmas. The school is working with families facing furlough issues on a case by case basis. So far, there have only been a few cases where the school has been approached

Committees and Elder Care: (Garth)

Nothing additional to report

Trustee Perspectives:

None present

Pastoral Perspectives: (Pastor Milton)

Pastor Milton thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication during the transition period. The Call Committee is continuing its work, and there should be some tangible progress to report soon.

Adjournment:

8:45 P.M.

Next Meeting:

February 26, 2019 @ 7:00 P.M.