

Meeting Minutes – September 2017

6:30 PM, September 5, 2017

Facilitator: Doug Hanson

Note Taker: Lynn Noren

Present: Doug Hanson, Mark Hellmann, Scott Christensen, Deb Stang, Johnna Hirt, Alden Riley and Lynn Noren

Unable to attend: Deb Shepard

Location: Home of Scott Christensen

Next Meeting: October 10, 2017

Agenda Topics

During our dinner discussion, we reviewed the *Celebrating 50 Years at Grace* document that was prepared by Pastor Mark for the anniversary celebration. We also reviewed Land Development Proposal that was prepared years ago when Grace was planning what to do with the Andover site.

Administrative - Doug Hanson

- Minutes - were presented for the August 8, 2017 meeting
 - A motion was brought by Alden to approve the minutes. Johnna seconded the motion.
Approved by all.

Monthly Financial Report-Kate Morphew

- Kate shared a financial Vision Board Report as well as the Grace Lutheran Church financial statements for August. Offerings continue to trend higher than last year at this time. Compared to the 2017 budget, we are trending lower revenues than budget, but our expenses are lower as well. Kate shared a plan for pastoral expenses for the remainder of the year. She is hopeful that we will be able to manage the expense of the Interim Pastor during the transition time to a new Senior Pastor.

Senior Pastor's Report - Mark Hellmann

- Pastor Mark's written report was shared.
- We are working to try to recruit a 50% time Co-Director of Children's Ministries. Mark is doing outreach to nearby colleges and seeking to find someone with previous experience in a similar role. Kristin is working to set up a ministry team for Children's Ministries.

- Jeannie has updated her Job Description as we prepare to announce her retirement and seek to fill the role.
 - Director of Nursery Ministries part-time position has been posted.
 - Adult Spiritual Formation Opportunities for the fall have been developed. One of the new opportunities will be Theology on Tap – The Ridiculous Journey, a fun new idea for our church, holding the group off-site at a local business.
 - We all agreed that using our special donation from the 50th Anniversary to send to victims of Hurricane Harvey is appropriate.
 - Pastor Mark shared The Sheridan Story, fighting child hunger. Grace staff have talked to Sand Creek and they would love to start a similar project there. This could be one earmark for our end of the year additional benevolence funds. We could involve our confirmation youth as well as others at Grace. We would also like to share some funds with the start-up church Intertwine in NE Minneapolis.
 - We reviewed average worship attendance for the past three years. We have seen a decline each of the three years. This trend is similar to most churches in the area.
 - Pastor Mark shared the copies of letters announcing his and Jeannie's retirement. Scott Christensen shared a draft letter that will be shared along with the letter from Pastor Mark and Jeannie. The board suggested some edits to make the letter more concise. We also reviewed a timeline of events leading up to the transition.

Transition Discussion

- We had a long discussion about the transition, sharing concerns about the workload of the Interim Senior Pastor. We also discussed a communication plan to assure the Vision Board is approachable and responsive to questions of the congregation.
 - Pastor Delwayne would like to have a six-month assessment and discussion about the future. Pastor Mark will arrange for this to happen in the next week or so and will include someone from the Graceful Seniors and the Pastoral Care team.
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Action Items

At the October Vision Board Meeting Pastor Hulden will come and share potential names for an Interim Pastor.

- We need to complete the Congregational Ministry Assessment and email it to Johnna to summarize. Send it to her by September 19th to compile.
- We need to be thinking about the formation of a Transition Team. We will seek advice from Pastor Hulden at the time of the meeting in October.

We closed the meeting in prayer.

Minutes taken by Lynn Noren, Secretary.