Council Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Snyder at 6:30 P.M.

ATTENDEES: Hilary Agnew, Mitch Burmeister, Pastor Cook, Kevin Eyster, Travis Fuhrmann, Rick Hannon, Matt Hesse, Rachel Sallaberry, Bev Silletto, Jim Snyder, Dave Walls, Wes Wrucke.

OPENING DEVOTION: Pastor recommended the book of Acts to be read for more in depth interpretation of those early days of the Church when Paul and John were commissioned by the Lord to do the unpopular and teach His words in the Temple. Being men of principle, they obeyed Him first above all others. Today we face similar challenges, threatened by external pressures of the current COVID situation. We must also listen to and bravely follow the Lord’s guidance.

2019-2020 FINANCIAL REPORT: Hilary reported the month of June showing a deficit of $11,219. Giving was $56,049, which was $14,198 less than budgeted. Our numbers for the fiscal year show that although we had a reduced income due to Corona Virus, God rewarded our faithfulness through PPP and CARES Act funds which gave us a net surplus of $32,748. Our overall accumulated deficit is $63,955, down from a deficit of $95,749, of a year ago.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR: Fiscal year to date showed $38,964 surplus which included the PPP funds and CARES Act. Giving for the month was $28,051 under budget. Income statement for the month of July showed total revenue of $159,210.

SALARY ADJUSTMENTS: Two salaried members requested that part of their salary be transferred to their housing allowance in accordance with IRS rules. Hilary moved to approve this, Dave seconded it and it was passed.

HEALTH PLANS: Our health plans insurer offered near identical plans for the upcoming school year. Hilary moved that we approve these plans, seconded by Matt Hesse. After discussion the motion was carried. Options for 2022 will be addressed at a future Council meeting with representatives of Concordia.

MISSIONAL PLANNING: The Missional Planning Committee including Mitch Burmeister, Kevin Eyster and Brendan Bergin has been meeting with Pastor Cook to update our previous plan based on his assessment of where we are and where we need to head with the current Corona Virus. The mission plan for both church and school is not a formal plan as yet. Fifty percent of the former plan has been accomplished and we will continue to build from there. The new plan will have a firm foundation and building blocks. Mitch began his presentation by providing the Church’s Mission Statement as well as the School’s Mission Statement. He then segued into Foundational work ahead of us.

1. Evaluate and determine as a congregation our core values.
   1. Why is Our Savior here?
   2. What purpose does Our Savior serve?
   3. How do we as members of Our Savior interact with each other?
   4. How does Our Savior interact with our “hurting world”?
2. Put our Mission Statement into action.
   1. Translate our Mission (Vision) statement into action by providing goals, initiatives and action steps.
   2. Communicate how our values and our Mission Statement impact everything we do (ongoing)
   3. Develop a “playbook” for departmental chairs (building on what is in the by-laws) to integrate our Mission into their work.
3. Priorities
   1. Focus on Lutheran education and how it is truly the church’s mission.
   2. Building a sense of community across multiple “cells” in our organization.
   3. Increasing engagement
      1. Strengthening volunteer leaders
      2. Encouraging individual and familial ownership/involvement in the church and our mission.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE: After some discussion Jim appointed Dave to head the nominating committee and Rick Hannon to be his assistant. Committee chairs up for election are Worship and Music, Missional Planning, Stewardship, Parish Education, Christian Relations, and Evangelism. Applicants from the congregation are encouraged to apply.

LIGHTNING STRIKE REPAIRS: Lightning struck the fire alarm and phone system. Claims are being filed with the help of Larry Ashley. A new and very necessary phone system is currently being installed. Also, a tree came down and estimated removal is $4000. Our school sign was not part of the lightning strike but needs repairs to operate. Estimate on sign work is $600. We will look closely at the warranty.

SCHOOL REPORT: Principal Wes Wrucke described the challenges to our school start date. The new government guidelines requests but does not mandate school openings be delayed until September 28. So far, we have not made that change. If we must go virtual, then delay will be necessary. We have solid protocol plans in place for our classroom education which minimizes risk. Rachel feels satisfied as a mother and teacher at OSLS feels very comfortable about school reopening and only worries about her son in the JCPS system who will not be going to school for another six weeks. Pastor reported NO COVID cases in connection to our church in the last five months of services. We are down to eleven with preschool.

Pastor led us in closing with the Lord’s Prayer.

Our next council meeting is scheduled for September 14.