

McFarland Lutheran Church Council
Tuesday, February 26, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

By Diane Wells 7:01 p.m.

Members Present: Pastor Tim Dean, Pastor Kelli Schmit, Diane Wells (V.P.), Cheryl Brown, Todd Bolstad, Ruth Poutanen, Pete Ellestad, Jeff Gehrke, Rick Hall (Sec.), , Kevin Stratten, Mary Grell, Renee Rodeck

Members not present: Sharon Mylrea, Brent Odell (Treasurer), Steve Schoch

1. Welcome

2. Agenda review and changes

3. Devotion – Ruth Poutanen – Council shared experiences of God’s presence.

4. Treasurer/Finance Committee Report–Diane Wells

Diane presented the short version of Brent Odell’s report for 1/31/19. Fiscal year to date income was \$729,601. This is ahead of last year at this time. Expenses were \$704,205. Added a pass through fline item for the mortgage reduction initiative called “2019-21 Debt Retirement Fund”.

5. Pastors’ reports – Pastor Tim

- Lent means “springtime.” March 6 is Ash Wednesday. Services will be at 11:00 am and 6:30 pm each Wednesday in Lent. Pastors will preach on five disciplines named when we affirm our baptism.
- Wednesdays services will include lunch following the 11:00 service (thanks to Marilyn Vandenberg) & dinner preceding the 6:30 service (thanks to Vicki Holten).
- We will cover the theme “Living our Baptism” in adult faith formation classes through Lent.
- Synod Assembly will be held May 4-5 at the Alliant Energy Center. We can send three lay voting members. Ruth Haley-Barton will be the featured speaker.
- We just added 20 new members including a number of families with kids.
- The Welcome Committee held a Coffee and Conversation event at McFarland House Café on 2/23. A few people came by to get coupons. There was good Facebook interest. Will do this again.
- Pastor Tim will attend a Habitat Dane County event Friday 3/1 for a World Day of Prayer luncheon. They will share opportunities to serve in a variety of ways including work at the Habitat Restore shops. Ron Vandenberg and Roger Marty will also be attending.

- Pastor Tim will be on vacation 3/22-28.

Pastor Kelli

- February is Heart Awareness month. Kristin Hildebrand did hands-only CPR plus AED and choking training.
- The 20-30-40s group went bowling and is planning future events.
- First Communion class 9:00 Saturday 3/2 and 3/9 They will make communion wafers. Fifteen kids are signed up to receive first communion on 3/10.
- Confirmation students will help with Wednesday evening services and learn various roles: ushering, serving communion etc.
- Global Mission – 19 people are signed up to go to Puerto Rico. Seven are going to Uganda in April, plus an additional 5 non-members who responded to the Hope-4-Kids website.

6. Properties Report – Diane Wells

- We have been battling our “Water Feature” in the gathering space due to ice dams and leakage, and the Property Committee is continuing to look for solutions.
- CLM bathrooms remodel contract has been approved, and will be underway soon! Cost will be \$62k. Sims is the contractor.
- Replaced lighting on south side with LEDs.

7. Mortgage Reduction – Jeff Gehrke – status update

- Letter just sent to all members with pledge card.
- Mike Devine – did a great job with a Mission Moment Feb. 23/24 at all services.
- We will have two listening sessions 3/3 and 3/10. All council members are urged to attend.
- Pastor Tim reported that we have already received some pledges.

8. CLM Planning – Todd Bolstad – status update

- Reviewed draft plan – discussed yellow question areas
- Staff recognition and appreciation combined under recommendations for the Personnel Committee.
- Todd will do email updates and print for staff. Will have some at Welcome Center
- Will do a short bulleted version for the newsletter

9. Safety & Security – Rick Hall – status update

- Group met on 2/4 with McFarland Police Officer Joel Zietsma to review his security site assessment of MLC

- Rick attended a House of Worship Safety and Security Conference in Green Bay and has electronic copies of conference materials
- Met with Sara Phelan to learn about CLM safety plan
- Will meet March 11 to pool security ideas for our plan

10.Sabbatical Leave Policy – Diane Wells – initial review

- MLC history: Pastors Bergson and Peterson took sabbatical leaves, but we could not find any MLC policy on this.
- Jeff Gehrke used South Central Synod policy as the basis for the initial draft.
- Jane Blank & Sharon Mylrea and the pastors all review the draft.
- Policy will apply to rostered leaders only.
- There are grant resources, e.g. Lily grant, that can be tapped.
- Need to set time frame – other synods vary on length – we have a three-month length in our draft.
- There was supportive conversation about the draft for a sabbatical policy. Council will review it again next month.

Other Business

Todd asked if we need to hand out bulletins to everyone. Perhaps one per couple would suffice. Worship Committee will review this suggestion.

11.Adjourn and Closing Prayer

Next meeting 3/19 7:00 p.m.

Pete Ellestad will do devotion.

Jeff & Cheryl moved to adjourn at 8:32 p.m. Pastor Tim led a closing prayer.