

McFarland Lutheran Church Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Members Present: Pastor Tim, Pastor Kelli, Todd Bolstad (Pres.), Cheryl Brown, Pete Ellestad, Mary Grell, Rick Hall (Sec.), Marcy Konemann, Rex Link, Ruth Poutanen, Renee Rodeck (Vice-Pres.), Barbara Porter-Quam, Kevin Strattan
Excused: Brent Odell (Treas.), Gary Toboyek

1. **Welcome** Todd Bolstad called the meeting to order at 7:01. Ice breaker - What are you thankful for?
2. **Devotion** – Pete Ellestad
3. **Agenda Review and Changes** – Todd Bolstad
4. **Treasurer/Finance Committee Report** – Todd for Brent Odell

Cash Balances

Brent noted that August is a three-pay period month – therefore, monthly income vs expense figures look like a deficit but carry-over funds actually make it a surplus. Checking Account balance is \$2,122. Total Savings Account balance is \$568,536 of which \$88,778 is the current balance of 'Debt Reduction' funds in response to our mortgage reduction initiative.

Mortgage

The Capital Campaign Building fund is now depleted and no longer exists. Debt reduction funds, received in response to our mortgage reduction initiative, are now used to make principal payments on our mortgage. Our current mortgage balance is \$1,182,150 (*reduced \$3,397 from previous month*).

Church Giving / Income and Expenses

Offerings received this month were approximately \$43K. YTD church income (*which includes offering income*) was \$192,330 which approximately \$7K less than our budgeted/projected YTD amount. However, YTD income is more than income received last year at this time by approx. \$17K.

Expenses for the month were \$77,632 bringing total YTD expenses to \$234,630 which were slightly more than budget. In addition, YTD expenses exceeded YTD income received by approximately \$42K. Committees and programs are operating consistent with or below budgeted amounts.

4K Income and Expenses

Current YTD 4K expenses were more than income received to date and will continue to be more than income until the first payment from the school district is received in October.

Pass Thru Summary

Designated and undesignated giving totaled \$18,425 (\$10,918 of which was for our mortgage reduction initiative).

Memorials

YTD memorial amounts received were \$2,110.

5. Committee Updates from Liaisons

Cheryl Brown - Family & Children's Ministry. Sunday school has restarted – they are using a sub and still need one more teacher (5th grade shepherd). Planning Pumpkin Fest 10/19 Noon-3PM - 1500 flyers are available. Following this, they will be working on our next Christmas program.

Pete Ellestad- Global Mission- Recent Walk4Water was a success raising \$20k. We need only \$2k more for a second well. Next Puerto Rico and Uganda mission trips are being planned for spring 2020.

Kevin Strattan – Finance. Kevin is new – they are reviewing insurance. Adam Peck – new congregation member - works for an insurance company and familiar with related data.

Mary Grell - Personnel (3rd year). – Hired new organist/pianist. Will make report about health care options for staff working 30-39 hours per week at October council meeting.

Rick Hall - Health and Social Wellness. Ongoing activity is posting monthly topics such as Alzheimer's, mental health, breast cancer – info on bulletin board in Great Hallway. Also assist with delivery of goods to Food Pantry for Giving Tree and VBS donations for homeless program.

Ruth Poutanen - Adult Faith Formation. They work on scheduling adult faith formation sessions. Worship & Music – planning some minor changes, for example, lectors reading the introductory background before reading each lesson.

Marcy Konemann – Stewardship. Discussed different ways of asking for donations and giving thanks. Raising money via on-line credit/debit card and texting has been discussed. Pledge appeal this October- November. Thanksgiving Celebration on Nov. 24 will include chili lunch. Studying a broader concept of stewardship.

Barb Porter-Quam and Todd Bolstad – CLM. Open house this Sunday 9-10 includes cake. Visit both CLM + Rainbow South. Rainbow South needs new cabinets & countertops. Willi Sindermann resigned as chair after serving 6 years on committee. Thank you, Willi! Aging CLM bus is under review.

Rex Link – Property Committee. Bid for paving parking lot accepted. New fridge led to some furniture shuffling in the upstairs kitchen.

6. **Pastors' reports** – Pastor Tim, Pastor Kelli

Pastor Tim

- New organist/pianist, John Scoville, off to great start!
- October full of ministry – polka service will be October 12-13, for all weekend worship.
- New members will be received October 13. Group is led by Huldah Ellestad.
- October 20, 14 9th graders will affirm baptism (confirmation)
- Pastor Tim will be doing adult education for 5 wks starting 10/27. Topic is God's covenantal love, "All You Need Is Love!"
- The Rev. Peter Rogness starts as interim bishop for our synod. He has much experience having been Bishop in Milwaukee and St. Paul. He will serve as interim through July 2020.
- Will attend a talk by Pastor Emmy Kegler on inclusivity for LGBTQ folks.
- Bishops convocation in Dubuque October 6-8. Wayne Mueller to speak.
- Will begin a monthly clergy leadership group – facilitated conversation with area therapist.

Pastor Kelli

- 100 registrations so far for Sunday school.
- Three year-olds received their story bibles on 9/15.
- 6th graders received their New Revised Standard Version bibles 9/22.
- 20-30-40 Year-Olds – September 27, date night at Buck & Honey's in Monona at 6:15PM, October 13, trip to Anderson Pleasant Pumpkin Patch at 3PM. November 2, 7-9PM, game night at Jess Fischer's house.
- In adult faith formation, Pastor Kelli is covering the gospel of Mark this Sunday 9/29.
- She will lead baptismal preparation class on 10/15 at 6:30PM
- Oct 7-9 continuing education on the "Craft of Preaching" through Luther Seminary

7. **Adjourn and Closing Prayer** – Ruth moved and Mary seconded motion to adjourn at 7:52.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: October 22, 2019, Devotion: Rick Hall