



McFARLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH

McFarland Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 10/27/2020

ZOOM

Sharing God's Word Showing God's Love Serving God's World

Present (Via Zoom): Pastor Tim, Pastor Kelli, Ruth Bennett, Rick Hall (Sec.), Marcy Konemann, Rex Link (via phone), Katherine Miller, Brent Odell (Treas.), Barb Porter-Quam, Scott Potts (via phone), Carol Quinlan, Renee Rodeck (Vice-Pres.), Kevin Strattan, Gary Toboyek (Pres.), John Zweig.

1. Call to order & Welcome - Gary Toboyek opened the meeting at 7:01 PM. It was noted that minutes have not included approval of previous month's minutes. The past two years, MLC council has used an email approval process. Therefore, August and September minutes have been approved by email.
2. Devotion – Rex Link - Rex shared several inspiring quotes including some from Mother Theresa's "Anyway" poem. E.g. "People are often unreasonable, illogical and self- centered; Forgive them anyway."
3. Agenda review and changes – Gary Toboyek
4. Treasurer/Finance Committee report – Brent Odell

FISCAL YEAR 2020 – 21 FINANCIAL SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

Cash Balances Checking Account balance was \$113,466. Total Savings Account balance was \$685,840 of which \$214,202 was the current balance of our 'Debt Reduction' funds in response to our mortgage reduction initiative and \$117,660 was designated for building maintenance/repair.

Mortgage Our current mortgage balance is \$1,137,258 (*reduced \$3,431 from previous month*). Pledges to our MRI total \$193,370 of which \$138,760 have been received. Overall contributions, including pledged and non-pledged dollars, received toward reducing our mortgage total \$221,115.

Church Giving / Income and Expenses Offerings received totaled \$47,725. Total YTD revenue (including offerings) was \$240,763 which is less than our budgeted/projected YTD amount. Expenses for the month totaled \$89,845 bringing YTD expenses to \$242,649. YTD expenses were \$1,800 more than income received. Committees and programs are operating consistent with or below budgeted amounts.

4K Income and Expenses The current 4K balance after expenses was \$22,436.

Pass Thru Summary Designated and undesignated giving for the month was \$68,047 of which \$52,000 was received as a bequest with \$14,000 designated for the CLM van replacement. The remaining \$38,000 will be put toward reducing our mortgage debt.

Memorials Memorials received YTD total \$2,010.

5. Pastors' reports –

Pastor Tim

- Worship via drive-in and web streaming overall is going well. We discussed concerns about some folks having difficulty with reception of the Sanctuary Live streaming.
- Pastor Tim is putting out a request for an outside heat lamp for the 9:00 drive-in service.
- We recently had 13 young people affirm their baptism during a Sanctuary Live service on Oct. 18.
- We have ordered upgraded audio equipment from Metro Sound, but they have a backlog of orders. We did receive a donation toward this expense. We hope to have the equipment by December.
- We plan to have Advent and Christmas services online because of safety concerns with high Covid numbers.
- All Saints day is this Sunday and we will continue our tradition of honoring members who have passed away this year.
- We will continue the Drive-In worship as long as we can--at least through the end of November.
- Our musicians continue to record pieces for the website and Facebook page. The hand bell choir has been recording pieces.
- The pastors continue to post a bible study each Wednesday and Huldah Ellestad is leading a Zoom discussion of Sunday's readings each Thursday.

- Pastor Tim will be offering a class on Zoom in November: “Coping Strategies for Anxious Times.”
- Carrie Kruzan continues to do a great job with the website, e.g. she has added a prayer request list to the e-news.
- We discussed concerns about members who don’t have technology for using the internet and members who desire in-person, inside services. Some council members cited a need for better communication about this. See more under Church Usage.

Pastor Kelli

- The Family & Child Ministry team has 64 kids enrolled in Sunday School. In previous years we have roughly 110 enrolled with about 80 actually attending regularly, so we are thrilled with people’s participation.
- We have distributed a Sunday School book with 14 stories for use at home. Parents preferred this option over Zoom-based Sunday School.
- We are working on a Virtual Christmas Program where 30-35 kids will be reading parts of the Christmas story. This will be posted on Facebook and the website by December 20th.
- Pastor Kelli and Pastor Tim will continue leading a discussion series using the video by Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III “The Cross and the Lynching Tree: A Requiem for Ahmaud Arbery” on 10/21 & 10/28.
- Pastor Kelli will lead a Bible Study about Racial Justice and White Privilege on 11/16, 23 and 30.

6. Discussion Topic - Church Usage

- We continued discussion of the need for better communication about our plans for returning to in-person worship.
- The pastors are proposing that we appoint a taskforce to lay out a plan with metrics for our return to church. We would include members with a medical background plus council liaisons and other church members. The goal would be to provide guidelines for in-person activities that council, pastors and staff can share with members.
- Renee moved that MLC council appoint a Covid-19 Task Force with the charge to develop a plan with metrics for the process of resuming in-person ministries. Marcy and Katherine seconded. Motion passed.
- Gary, as council president, will write a letter to the congregation to communicate our status and plans ASAP. Council will see the letter before it is sent to the congregation. The executive committee (Pres., VP, Secy. and Treas.) will review the scope of the task force and membership on it, and council will further review the task force’s ministry at the next meeting.

- Further discussion noted some other churches in Dane County are having in-person services, but ELCA congregations in our synod conference are not. We all (council and pastors) need to project a consistent message.

7. Committee Reports

a) Global Mission - Katherine Miller reported that Global Mission is seeking council permission to conduct a fund-raising effort as follows

- \$5,000 to empower Pastor Eric Sabiit and the Christian Foundation for Community Development to purchase land to continue growing and harvesting moringa, which is an incredible element in feeding ministries
- \$1,000 for the food pantry with Reconciliation Lutheran Church in Puerto Rico
- \$1,000 for Outreach for World Hope, an organization based out of Verona, WI that provides infant formula for severely malnourished children in Guatemala.

Rick moved and Kevin seconded to approve this request. Motion passed.

b) Properties - Scott Potts reported that one of the dual heating and cooling roof top unit's heat exchangers was in need of replacement. The heating unit was taken out of service and we will continue to use the air conditioning. We turned on the boiler heat in the rooms affected and ordered new thermostats for those areas. Also, the village of McFarland is supportive of our parking lot plans. We will be testing out a new place to plow snow to see if this helps reduce icing across the south lot. We also donated some unused bricks to Habitat for Humanity.

8. Any other business

9. Adjourn and Closing Prayer Scott moved and several members seconded:
Adjourned at 9:15 PM.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: November 17, 2020 Devotion: John Zwieg
(Note: This is earlier due to Thanksgiving week.)