



McFARLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH

McFarland Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 3/23/21 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. VIA 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 (via phone), 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.

Call to order & Welcome - Gary Toboyek

Devotion – Ruth Bennett

Agenda review – Gary Toboyek

Treasurer/Finance Committee report – Brent Odell

FISCAL YEAR 2020 – 21 FINANCIAL SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS FOR FEBRUARY 2021

Cash Balances

Checking Account balance was \$263,038. (This reflects the \$160,000 in Payroll Protection Program funds received under Covid19 relief legislation passed by Congress)

Total Savings Account balance was \$697,890 of which \$230,286 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 \$1,109,922 (reduced \$3,492 from previous month).

Pledges to our MRI total \$193,570 of which \$198,168 have been received. Overall contributions (pledged and non-pledged dollars, bequests and memorials) received toward reducing our mortgage total \$248,466.

Church Giving / Income and Expenses

Offerings received totaled \$59,210. Total YTD revenue (including offerings) was \$705,889 which is less than our budgeted/projected YTD amount.

Expenses for the month totaled \$36,987 bringing YTD expenses to \$665,023. (Expenses do not include \$62,000 in payroll costs that were paid using PPP dollars received. The use of PPP dollars to meet payroll expenses resulted in YTD expenses being \$40,000 less than church generated income received.)

Committees and programs are operating consistent with or below budgeted amounts.

4K Income and Expenses

In February we should receive our second payment from the school district. Current 4K expenses were less than income by \$13,126.

Pass Thru Summary

Designated and undesignated giving for the month, not including contributions of \$3,668 for reducing the mortgage debt and receipt of \$160,000 in PPP funds, was \$2,983.

Memorials

Memorials received were \$1,400 bringing YTD total to \$5,560.

Finance Committee Update on Action taken February 2021

Approved using \$200K from MRI balance to pay down principal of mortgage note 431 leaving a balance in MRI account of \$30K (with \$30K yet to be received). This action will result in approximately a \$1,170 reduction in our monthly mortgage payment for both notes: \$6,595 to \$5,925.

Brent also noted that he will include an explanation of the use of Payroll Protection Plan money and how it affects monthly financial reporting in our newsletter.

Kevin moved and Barb and Ruth (tie) seconded to approve the finance report. Motion passed.

Brief Pastors' reports – Pastor Tim & Pastor Kelli

Pastor Tim

We are resuming drive-in worship this Palm Sunday 3/28 at 9 a.m. We have tested our new broadcast radio antenna and it improves sound quality greatly. We also purchased a fold-up tent for pastors and musicians in case of rain. The 10 a.m. Sanctuary Live on Facebook service will continue.

Holy Week services will include 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday service via Zoom and a noon Good Friday service via Sanctuary Live on Facebook.

For Easter we will have 9:00 drive-in and 10:00 Facebook live. We will encourage people to bring lawn chairs to allow more people to attend. Rick will have a rack of our folding chairs at the ready. We will maintain six feet between chairs or family groups of chairs in front of the cars and on either side.

Pastor Kelli

Pastor Kelli recently completed reading a book about anti-racism for continuing education. She will take vacation 3/26 and 4/25.

Task Force Document Review (Approval)

Gary led the discussion of the task force report section by section. John covered the metrics section.

The Task Force has defined four phases based on achievement of three metrics for Dance County:

- Percent of population with at least one Covid vaccination.
- Percent of new cases per day per 100,000 population - one week average.
- Percent of positive Covid tests, 7-day average.

We have experienced a lot of recent improvement on these indicators. To move forward, we need to meet all three criteria, but will move back a phase if one indicator is exceeded. We are now meeting the criteria for phase two. We will go forward with council approval of the report. Phase two will start with an 8 a.m. Sunday service with 30 pre-registered attendees plus worship leaders. We will use learning from this pilot to refine procedures for phases 2, 3 and 4. We will continue with 9 a.m. drive-in and 10 a.m. Sanctuary Live services for the foreseeable future. Each service will have the same texts and sermons, but music and liturgy will vary.

Council members asked many questions and suggested a number of edits that will be incorporated in the final Task Force report which will be sent to council members and posted on the MLC web site.

The Task Force gave priority to starting in-person worship, but did address re-opening to on-site church groups and eventually other community groups. We may need to look at rental fees and cleaning fees and procedures for outside groups. External groups should indicate their numbers so we can manage the various phases appropriately. The Facility Use Agreement will be revised accordingly.

Council member names and emails will be included in the report. Some refinements will be made based on our experience as we proceed.

We are sending out a survey to gauge interest in in-person attendance. We will need to manage registration versus actual attendance.

Renee moved and Kevin seconded motion to approve the report with edits. Motion passed unanimously.

Scott (and all council members agree) offered a BIG THANK YOU to the Task Force members for their thorough planning and detailed consideration of what MLC needs to do to get back to in-person worship and ministries.

Pastor Tim noted that we will plan to have our first in-person service at 8 a.m. on April 25th.

Any other business - None reported.

Adjourn and Closing Prayer - Scott and Marcy moved and seconded adjournment at 9:10 p.m. Pastor Kelli led the prayer.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: April 27th, 2021 – Devotion – Rick Hall