



McFARLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH

McFarland Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 4/27/21 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), Brent Odell (Treas.), Barb Porter-Quam, Carol Quinlan, Scott Potts (via phone), Renee Rodeck (Vice-Pres.), Gary Toboyek (Pres.), John Zweig.

Excused: Katherine Miller, Rex Link, Kevin Stratten

1. Call to order & Welcome - Gary Toboyek

2. Devotion – Rick Hall - Spring has Sprung

3. Agenda review – Gary Toboyek

4. Treasurer/Finance Committee report – Brent Odell

FISCAL YEAR 2020 – 21 FINANCIAL SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS FOR MARCH 2021

Cash Balances

Checking Account balance was \$263,038. *(This reflects unexpended Payroll Protection Program funds received under Covid19 relief legislation passed by Congress and \$200K in MRI funds transferred from savings to pay down the principal on our mortgage)* Total Savings Account balance was \$517,998 of which \$50,704 was the current balance of our 'Debt Reduction' funds and \$117,660 was designated for building maintenance/repair.

Mortgage

Our current mortgage balance is \$916,418 *(reduced \$203,504 from the previous month; \$200,000 of which came from our Mortgage Reduction Initiative to pay down the balance prior to an April 1 market interest rate adjustment.)* Thrivent, however, did not increase the interest rate, as had been anticipated, and it remains at 3.8%. Our total monthly mortgage payment will be \$5,423 which is a reduction of \$1,172.

Pledges to our MRI total \$193,570 of which \$220,276 have been received. Overall contributions *(pledged and non-pledged dollars, bequests and memorials)* received toward reducing our mortgage total \$271,773.

Church Giving / Income and Expenses

Offerings received totaled \$46,088. Total YTD revenue (*including offerings*) was \$817,415 which is less than our budgeted/projected YTD amount.

Expenses for the month totaled \$48,424 bringing YTD expenses to \$713,447. (*Expenses do not include \$126,000 in payroll costs that were paid using PPP dollars received. The use of PPP dollars to meet payroll expenses has resulted in YTD expenses being \$104,000 less than church generated income received.*)

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

4K Income and Expenses

MLC received its second payment in the amount of \$32K from the school district for a total of \$64,952. Current 4K expenses were less than income by \$8,612.

Pass Thru Summary

Designated and undesignated giving for the month, not including contributions of \$22,808 for reducing the mortgage debt, was \$2,426.

Memorials

Memorials received were \$25 bringing YTD total to \$5,585.

Finance Committee Update and/or Action taken April 2021

- An article appeared in the newsletter updating the congregation on the status of our mortgage, i.e. how MRI funds were used to pay down the principal on our mortgage loan and how future mortgage payments will be made.
- Work has begun on developing our 2021-22 FY budget. A preliminary draft will be shared with Council members at their May meeting.

John moved and Ruth seconded to approve the finance report. Motion passed

5. Budget Update

See update above.

6. Pastors' reports – Pastor Tim & Pastor Kelli

Pastor Tim

- We had our first in-person worship last Sunday. We had 11 worshipers plus 9 worship assistants. The service went well. We can still sign up for future services via Google Spreadsheet. The COVID Task Force will meet within two weeks to go over results so far and will plan some changes - we are "living into" the in-person service. The drive-in service is continuing and we are encouraging folks to bring lawn chairs as we have added a second loud speaker.
- We have a group pursuing learning opportunities about racism and social justice. Some folks from UCC are joining us. One resource they are using is a movie called "Ethnic Notions" which depicts various ethnic stereotypes and describes how they influence our every-day lives.
- We are planning a Service of Lament for some time in June to recognize the pain in our country caused by racism. It will recognize the anniversary of George Floyd's death, remember the Charleston nine and help celebrate Juneteenth.
- Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has issued a statement on the Chauvin verdict and also cites further discussion resources. Go to <https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/8099> to learn more.

- Pastor Tim will participate in virtual seminar through the Institute of Liturgical Studies on Services of Lament.
- Pastor Tim will be on vacation April 28 to May 3rd.

Pastor Kelli

- Pastor Kelli continues her training with a virtual Festival of Homilies. She has viewed many recordings (20 hours) of preaching and lectures.
- The 20's-30's-40's group will have a virtual Zoom get-together this Friday at 8:30.
- She will be on vacation May 17-20 and May 30.

7. COC Presentation - Solar Energy - Wes Licht

Wes reported that the Care of Creation Committee is looking into solar power as a way of reducing our energy costs and reducing our carbon footprint. Any savings could be reallocated to our various missions. He cited several resources we can use including RENEW Wisconsin. They have the Solar for Good program which assists non-profits with donating solar panels and providing technical assistance and small grants for installation. The Care of Creation committee is looking to MLC council to appoint a committee do research about costs and funding sources and develop a plan and timeline for council approval. Wes is willing to participate but wants more volunteers to join the effort. Following Wes's presentation, several council members shared ideas about who might be of help to the committee. No formal action was taken at this time.

8. Task Force Update - Gary Toboyek

Gary reported that we had a few people provide helpful feedback at two listening sessions. We will incorporate their suggestions as the task force reviews our in-person worship progress.

John reported that we are doing very well on our metrics (percent vaccinated, number of new cases and percent positive tests). The task force will continue to monitor these and will decide when to move to phases three and four. We are currently showing numbers adequate to move to phase three. The task force will meet next Tuesday.

9. Properties Updates

Scott reported that the FLC roof lines up well for solar panel installation, but this raises the question of when we will need a new roof. MERV13 air filters have been installed in our rooftop HVAC units. The leak above the welcome center has now been repaired - hooray! We have a mis-aligned door into the FLC. Scott has contacted Ron Blank about this. We have converted parking and exterior lights to LED's. Some classrooms have LED's also.

10. Elections - Nominating Committee - Gary Toboyek

The 2021 election committee will include last year's council "graduates": Todd Bolstad, Pete Ellestad, Mary Grell and Cheryl Brown. We will need to replace five council members this year since Rex has asked to leave the council at the end of June. Renee, Rick Ruth and Kevin are all completing their terms. Please contact Gary or one of the committee members with suggested candidates by May 11th.

11. Other Business from Other Committees

12. Adjourn and Closing Prayer - Scott moved and Barb seconded adjournment. Pastor Tim led the prayer.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: May 25th, 2021 – Devotion – Scott Potts