



McFARLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH

McFarland Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 5/25/21 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.), Rex Link, Katherine Miller Brent Odell (Treas.), Barb Porter-Quam, Carol Quinlan, Scott Potts (via phone), Renee Rodeck (Vice-Pres.), Kevin Strattan, Gary Toboyek (Pres.), John Zweig.
Excused: Marcy Konemann

1. Call to order & Welcome - Gary Toboyek

2. Devotion – Scott Potts - Scott led us in a devotion he had written for our “Call to Grow” document. He cited Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” He related the story of a stranger who saw him praying in a restaurant who left and returned to tell him God loves him.

3. Agenda review – Gary Toboyek

4. Treasurer/Finance Committee report – Brent Odell

FISCAL YEAR 2020 – 21 FINANCIAL SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS FOR APRIL 2021

Cash Balances

Checking Account balance was \$239,897 (This reflects unexpended Payroll Protection Program funds received under Covid19 relief legislation passed by Congress as well as unexpended WI state grant monies received by CLM)). Total Savings Account balance was \$526,517 of which \$58,368 was the current balance of our ‘Debt Reduction’ funds and \$117,660 was designated for building maintenance/repair.

Mortgage

Our current mortgage balance is \$913,166 (reduced \$3,252 from the previous month)
Pledges to our MRI total \$193,570 of which \$229,803 have been received. Overall contributions (pledged and non-pledged dollars, bequests and memorials) received toward reducing our mortgage total \$281,301.

Church Giving / Income and Expenses

Offerings received totaled \$34,237. Total YTD revenue (including offerings) was \$893,273 which is less than our budgeted/projected YTD amount.

Expenses for the month totaled \$56,628 bringing YTD expenses to \$770,075. (Since PPP and WI state grant dollars are not considered church generated income, expenses do not include payroll or other costs that were paid using PPP and WI state grant dollars received. The use of PPP and WI state grant dollars to cover payroll and other expenses has resulted in YTD expenses being \$123,197 less than church generated income received.)

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

4K Income and Expenses

Total FY 4K expenses (\$61,747) were \$3,205 less than the total income of \$64,952 received from the school district.

Pass Thru Summary

Designated and undesignated giving for the month, not including contributions of \$9,528 for reducing the mortgage debt, was \$378.

Memorials

Memorials received were \$575 bringing YTD total to \$6,160.

Finance Committee Update and/or Action taken May 2021

- CLM has been the recipient of additional State grant monies in the amount of \$31,430 to be used to cover personnel and program expenses.
- A draft of the FY 2021-22 budget will be was shared with Council members at their May meeting for their consideration.

After some questions and discussion, Scott moved and Barb seconded a motion to approve the finance report. Motion passed.

5. Budget Update

Brent shared a budget highlights list and explained the Finance Committee's process. We also discussed the Personnel Committee recommendations. We discussed the need for communication to the full congregation about the budget process and the particular need this year to document what staff have been doing to justify a pay increase after last year's salary freeze. We need to share how staff adapted to and met the Covid challenge. Council decided that some communication is needed as we move toward the Annual Meeting, as well as in the reports submitted for the Annual Meeting..

6. Pastors' reports – Pastor Tim & Pastor Kelli

Pastor Tim

- We have had five in-person 8:00 services. Attendance has averaged about 10 worshipers in addition to ushers, greeters, pastors and music staff. We have added a musician singing, spoken responses and in-pew communion. The task force will meet next week one day after Dane County will issue its revised rules in response to the mid-May CDC update.

- Pastor Tim is planning to get task force approval to start in-person worship at the 10:00 service by mid-June. The 9:00 drive-in service will continue at least through August.
- Pastor Tim hopes we can have “new normal” 8:00 and 10:00 services by late August or early September.
- Thursday, May 27 at 7:00 PM, we will show the film “Ethnic Notions” via Zoom and follow up with discussion about racial bias. Thanks to Christine Pribbenow for her assistance with this.
- Pastor Tim reported that we have two baptisms scheduled. He will be leading a baptismal preparation class on June 1. This will be on Zoom for now and will be repeated quarterly.
- Pastor Tim has been serving in the Lutheran Campus Ministry and will take over as board president this year. Pastor Emily Tveite from LCM will be preaching for us on August 22nd.
- Pastor Tim is meeting with Huldah Ellestad, Chris Landerud, and Pastor Kelli to discuss fall Faith Formation activities. This may be a hybrid of in-person and Zoom sessions.

Pastor Kelli

- The Family and Children Committee has decided not to have in-person Vacation Bible School this year since the target audience (munchkins) can't be vaccinated. Parents are not in favor of more Zooming since it is too much like more school. They will, however, offer Summer Fun Kits which include: bubbles, sidewalk chalk, and kites. Kits (and a popsicle!) will be picked up from 11:00am - Noon on June 6th and 13th.
- They will send a July mailing with family-friendly games, such as a Summer Activity Bingo Sheet, and downloadable access to this year's VBS music.
- The Global Mission Committee will be sponsoring another Walk 4 Water event for wells in Uganda. It is planned for September 18th with a virtual format only if needed. Jim and Linda Ellestad will be organizing the event.
- Pastor Kelli is meeting with a parent to brainstorm how to safely offer First Communion classes. There will most likely be multiple “sessions” offered due to the size of the group this would include.
- Pastor Kelli will lead a reading group for multiple weeks in July. Be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks.
- Pastor Kelli will be on vacation 5/30 and 6/17-20.

7. Pastor Kelli's Maternity Leave

Pastor Tim noted that past practice has been to allow 6 weeks for paid parental leave. When Theo was born Pastor Kelli was given six weeks. Pastor Tim is recommending eight weeks this time. We will plan to have “supply” pastors fill in for a couple weeks. We do have guest pastors as a budget item and we did not use that line this year. Renee moved and Barb seconded a motion to approve eight weeks paid maternity leave for Pastor Kelli. Motion passed.

8. Discuss Wes' COC Solar Presentation - Do we want to commission a group to begin investigation?

Wes joined us for a follow-up discussion to the presentation he did at the April meeting. Wes wants to look into solar as a means of reducing our electricity costs and reducing our carbon footprint. Renee moved and Ruth seconded a motion to authorize the formation of an ad hoc or task force group to look into solar power. Motion passed. Katherine Miller and John Zweig

volunteered to serve on the group and Gary offered consultation on electricity issues. We will solicit more group members via the newsletter.

9. Task Force Update - Gary Toboyek - Next Steps

Gary reported that we have re-roped the sanctuary to hold about 100 people with social distancing. The Task Force will meet next Tuesday to discuss further worship expansion and covid procedures. They will also be looking at opening up meeting rooms for MLC committees and small groups, and we should start having in-person committee meetings in a month or so. This includes the MLC council's June meeting. We currently have no plans for external groups which pay fees to use our facilities.

John shared a graphic showing Dane County percent with at least one vaccination, average number of new cases per day and seven-day average percent of positive Covid tests. We currently meet the requirements for MLC's Phase Four. We discussed concerns that the congregation is eager to return to "normal" worship, the need to protect those who cannot be vaccinated or are immune-compromised and taking advantage of those who are fully vaccinated. The task force has a lot to talk about.

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 along with Gary. There will be five vacancies this year and there is still time to nominate candidates. Council members can let Pastor Tim know if they have nominees, and he will share them with the committee.

11. Other Business or Other Committee Updates

Properties: Scott reported that the committee now plans to stay with the existing shape and dimension of the south parking lot which will be re-paved in the next two to three years.

12. Annual Meeting Sunday July 25th, 2021, Time 11:00 AM

13. Adjourn and Closing Prayer - Scott moved and Kevin seconded adjournment. Passed at 8:39. Pastor Kelli led the prayer.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: June 22, 2021 – Devotion – Kevin Strattan