

ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
6180 HIGHWAY 65 NE
FRIDLEY, MN 55432

Minutes of the Board of Administration Meeting
September 26, 2017, 6:45 p.m.

Board President Mike Youngberg called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Mike Youngberg, Valerie Sperry, Bryant Holmstrom, Kathy Pullen, Leif Ronken, Dawn Hansen, Betty Schweppe and Barbara Cooper

Absent: Carol Anderson

Staff in Attendance: Interim Pastor Christine Wenzel, Pastor Mollie Dvorak, Jeannine Arcand and Katie Svenstad

Others in Attendance: LaRae Kasmierkoski and Karen Teska

Opening Prayer: Almighty God, draw our hearts to you, guide our minds, fill our imaginations and control our wills, so that we may be wholly yours. Use us as you will, always to your glory and the welfare of your people, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

1. **Devotions:** Dawn Hansen gave devotions based on Mother Theresa's "Anyway".
2. **Approved:**
 - a) Minutes from August 15, 2017, meeting
 - b) Minutes from Special Meetings to approve the new choir director and the new youth director
 - c) September 26, 2017, agenda
 - 1) Leif Ronken will have devotions in October, and Kathy Pullen will have devotions in November.
3. **Checking In/Introductions**
4. **Membership:** No news
5. **LaRae Kasmierkoski on Garage Sale Funding Distribution:** LaRae reported that the garage sale total was \$24,221. Of that total, \$9,400 was from the first night.

a) Projects selected for funding:

Sheridan Story.....\$2,000
Coats for Kids.....1,000
Mitten Makers.....400
Fridley School Backpacks.....250
St. Philip's Food Shelf..... 1,200
Quilters.....500
Cars for Neighbors.....500
Custodian Account
(Carpet cleaner).....500
Electronic Drum Kit.....1,500
Chalices.....400
Banners.....500
Garden Expansion.....500
Food for LEAFS.....500
Musicians.....800
Men's Work Crew.....250
60th Anniversary.....500
Storage Facility Fund.....10,000

The Garage Sale Committee also voted to give \$250 to Katie Svenstad and a memorial gift of \$250 to Michelle Hill. The remaining funds will go for 20 additional tables, shelving and other supplies.

- b) **Discussion points:**
- 1) The procedure is for the BOA to approve the funding proposal.
 - 2) Motion made to approve dispersal of Garage Sale funds.
 - 3) The congregation does a lot of fundraising for ministries. We are in the red. We are wondering if giving is down because there are so many fundraising opportunities.
 - 4) We are \$50,000 in the red. Allotting \$10,000 for the storage facility when we are so far down seems like poor stewardship. We may have to borrow money from the bank to pay salaries. Usually, giving in September picks up; however, this year September giving is worse than that of July and August.
 - 5) Request to approve some of the garage sale charitable giving now.
 - 6) Discussion of whether the BOA should change the garage sale committee's decision.
- c) **Amendment:** I was moved that we amend the motion to state "We approve funding except for the \$10,000 funding for the storage facility.
- 1) **Amendment passed**
 - 2) **Amended motion passed**
6. **Financial Report from Treasurer Leif**
- a) Expenses for the last two months were 92.48% of budget, but income was 79.54% of budget.
 - b) Envelope Income Budget was \$49,680, but the Actual Envelope Income was \$37,866.
7. **Report on Maintenance and Security from Katie**
- a) Recently, bottles of floor cleaner and a case of urinal cakes have gone missing from Maintenance.
 - b) Unknown persons have been hanging around the church. The goal is to make women on staff feel safe at work.
 - c) We will be upgrading our security system to include cameras outside and upgrading the horns and strobe lights. We also have a new fire alarm panel. There is money to buy a 32 channel digital system. Then, later we can upgrade to digital cameras.
 - d) Pastor Christine added that during the winter the office will close at 4:00 p.m., so staff will not have to leave in the dark.
 - e) A new hot water heater has been installed.
 - f) Katie is mentoring a Fridley High School student on the job.
8. **Reports from Pastors and Administrator**
- a) Jeannine reported on the managed IT company. They priced out Comcast service to be less than what we currently pay CenturyLink. Putting in the new line is free and should happen before winter. The Internet speed will be much faster. Currently, IT can't do backups because our internet speed is too slow.
 - b) Pastor Christine:
 - 1) Had good reports for the new staff. Rick is "amazing". Tori is happy to have more autonomy here than her previous position, and she's looking forward to working with the youth.
9. **Old Business reported by Pastor Christine**
- a) The **Worship Life Task** Force has been visiting churches. Their next meeting is in October.
 - b) The **Transition Team** has gone out into the community collecting information to answer the question: Who is our neighbor? The team is starting the ministry profile needed for the hiring process of a new senior pastor. Their goal is to have it ready for the February 2018 annual meeting.
10. **New Business reported by Mike**
- a) The **Covenant of Conduct** will be included in the newsletter as a reminder for everyone as we proceed with difficult issues.
 - b) **Stewardship:** By the end of September, we will be down \$49,000.
 - 1) St. Philip's has one bank account. Currently, the balance is \$80,000; however, \$41,000 is dedicated for programming and projects. The bank account also includes \$42,000 belonging to disaster relief. We are \$50,000 behind in giving.

- 2) More than half of the members do not pledge. Fifty-five people who pledged in 2016 did not pledge for 2017.
 - 3) Out of 180 pledging units, 45% are behind. Twenty-six are behind \$500 or more for a total of \$26,000. Some are ahead in giving, totaling \$7,000.
 - 4) If we do not have cash on hand to make payroll, we are looking into borrowing from Wells Fargo.
 - 5) In the future, we are not going to budget beyond what people are willing to give. We are no longer going to guess how much people who do not pledge will give.
 - 6) We will have a church family meeting to let the congregation know about the situation.
 - 7) A **motion** was seconded and approved to approve borrowing up to \$20,000 to cover the shortfall.
- c) Governance**
- 1) Mike proposed a change for the BOA. The board should be smaller—seven members plus two pastors.
 - 2) The pastors will have voting rights.
 - 3) The committee structure should significantly change as well.
 - 4) Perhaps we don't need the Treasurer position.
 - 5) The President should stay on as emeritus for one year.
- d) Nominations:** We need to find out what committee chairs will be open.
11. **Reflection Time:** We have engaged in important conversation.
12. **Adjournment** with the Lord's Prayer at 9:55 p.m.

Submitted by Barbara Cooper