

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

**Official Minutes  
Board of Administration Meeting  
October 24, 2017, 6:45 PM**

Meeting was called to order by board President Mike Youngberg at 6:49pm.

**Members in attendance:**

Mike Youngberg, Valerie Sperry, Betty Schweppe, Carol Anderson, Barbara Cooper, Dawn Hansen, Joel Young and Leif Ronken (Kathy Pullen, Bryant Holmstrom absent)

**Staff in attendance:**

Interim Senior Pastor Christine Wenzel, Pastor Mollie Dvorak, and Jeannine Arcand.

**Opening Prayer**

Almighty God, draw our hearts to you, guide our minds, fill our imaginations, 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:** Leif Ronken – Wakes up with a song in his heart! Keep your yolks on top!

**2. Consent Approval:**

A. September 26, 2017 Minutes Move/Second/Consent as amended.

B. October 24, 2017 Agenda M/S/C. as amended.

C. September Committee Reports – The Committee Chairs also received copies of the minutes.

**3. Checking In / Introductions** – Board members shared stories.

**4. Membership – New/Transferred –**

**Transfer:** Deb and Mark Williamson; Daniel and Lauri Anderson; Dean McGrew

**Death:** Joanne Sorum, Jordis Mittlestadt, James Plumedahl,

Eleanor Haugen, Dolores Jones

**Released:** Christopher, Eric, Jennifer Tracey; Bradyn Buganski;

Jenna, Kirsten Halvorson; Dylan Cherveney; Robert Swenson; Calvin

Schwartz; James Dietrich; Anne Schweizer

**6. Financial Reports:** Treasurer, Leif Ronken – giving is still down. Not going to gain a lot to the deficit with giving to date. Letter from President going with the giving statements the end of October.

We can figure how much un-pledged people are giving. Budget committee looking ahead to staffing and expense for 2018.

Frost Simula asked to speak about the Family Meeting. His concern was that we did not have enough data as we are looking forward and planning 2018 budget. Without data we're all just another person with an opinion. We have to be able to have facts. We need a discovery process. He gave examples of his job with designing products to make it better for his clients. Often that means solving a problem by doing the research. He suggested we use that approach.

The board explained to Frost that it is easier said than done. We are all volunteers. Any research from us would break confidentiality. If we hired a research firm to do this it could work...but we don't have the funds for that. Pastor Christine explained that we had taken a hard step to get real with how many people were members of the church and how many come to church Sunday. Our numbers are dwindling. If the board approached members, what kind of response would they get? Passive? Aggressive? Would the answers reflect reality?

We do know who pledges and how much. We know if the pledges are up to date. We know who gives but doesn't pledge as long as they pay with a check. We know who has decreased their pledge and who has increased their pledge.

Frost encouraged us to listen to the complaints. 1 out of 26 people complain, the rest just churn. The board then had a discussion about recent new members who have already left because they do not feel accepted. St. Philip's is a warm congregation to begin with but then we are not inclusive as new members try to find a fit. The board and staff do listen to complaints. Not every complaint can have an immediate fix nor does it fit into the mission and vision the board has for the congregation. So much of what we hear is that we want things the way they used to be. The Board thanks Frost for his insight, comments and encouragement.

## **6. Pastors and Administrator Reports and Committee Reports:**

- A. Pastor Christine – see old business
- B. Pastor Mollie - see old business
- C. Jeannine (SPLC Office Manager) – Two returning renters to use the Chapel: First Trinity Church, Henry Brown and Iglesia Dios Aqui. Between the two should add about \$5000+ rental / year.
- D. Liaisons to Committee: No discussion.

## **7. Old Business:**

- Transition Team update – Pastor Christine/Carol – Ministry Site Profile – at next meeting determine how to approach the congregation. The plan is to have one question each Sunday for 4 Sundays from the Ministry Site Profile that the congregation and give answers to via a sticky note that will be provided in the bulletin. We will give a little time in the service for this important question and answer opportunity.

- Budget update – Mike/Val – Met last week; 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter budget review. Met again today and deemed OK. Gifts of \$20,000. Talking about future with these numbers. What are staffing and operation costs? Looking at this now not waiting until December. Benefits package .... Stay same for now.
- Stewardship update – Mike – 1) Letter that goes out with our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter giving. 2) Stewardship meeting tomorrow at 5pm to put together plans. November will be pledge drive month and will finish with a generosity celebration! Discussed a campaign for Kindness. Kindness Rocks.
- Governance - Worship, Grow, Serve. – tabled
- Board Structure for 2018 and beyond –tabled
- Constitution and Bylaws ( Read and Bring copies)

**8. New business:**

- Nominating committee – Val will be the liaison from the board to this committee. What positions need to be filled? Several board member terms will expire. There may be 3 officer positions to fill. Suggestion – past president on the board as an at-large member. Further discussion on the 9 committee structure and how it fits going forward. Discussed the Bylaws too.

**9. Reflection Time:** What have we done to further the ministry of St. Philip’s tonight? We discussed how do we become a healthy church. How do we open the wounds and heal? Admitting who we are is a start.

**10. Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 9:22pm by President Mike Youngberg followed by The Lord’s Prayer.

**Upcoming Dates:**

**BOARD Meeting  
Tuesday, November 26, 2017**

**ALL COMMITTEES Meeting  
Cancelled for the rest of 2017**

**Christmas Pageant and Concert  
Sunday, December 10**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
TBD**

Minutes submitted by Carol Anderson, St. Philip’s Board of Administration Secretary