

BOA Minutes for November 28, 2022

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.

Attendance

☒ Mike, ☒ Barbara, ☒ Kari, ☒ Aaron, ☒ Terry, ☒ LaRae, ☒ Dianne, ☒ Brian, ☒ Kristine, ☒ Greg, ☒ Pastor Matt, ☐ Pastor Erik, ☒ Katie

Devotions—Kristine

Approvals—LaRae

1. Minutes of October BOA meeting—Approved by Board
2. Agenda for November—Approved by Board

Committee Reports

1. SPDR—Mike
 - a) Donated \$2,000 to ELCA for hurricane relief
 - b) Transferred \$10,000 Garage Fund to Building for the Future II
 - c) Work continues SPDR storage facility
2. P & G—Mike
 - a) Sewer permanently repaired—finally
 - b) Need to repair or replace West Parking Lot lights
 - c) Storage facility
 - Passed final inspection by Fridley
 - Electric installation continues
 - Dumpster gates being fabricated
 - Landscaping next spring
 - d) Mission Minute—Storage facility update at both services next Sunday
 - e) Gardening
 - The gardeners wrapped up for the year.
 - The garden produced more than 500 pounds of produce this year. All of it went to our Food and Clothing Shelf.
 - The gardeners are now planning next year's planting season and determining how to meet the cultural needs of our clientele.

Congregational Life Events in December—Barbara

- Requested release—John Hahn, Brian and Sheila Ranbun
- Released by death—Sylvia Strand and Harold Lundberg
- Baptism (11/27)—Ivy Rose Goldenstein
- New Members (via paperwork)—Bridget and Brian Hovde, Jerry and Laura Havon, and Brian and Sara Gabrielson
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Financial Report--Greg

- We are at break even.
- We have benevolence obligations to our sister church in Nigeria and to the Sacks (missionaries in Japan),
- Currently, we have money in surplus.

FYI--Business Manager's Report—Katie

1. Plumbing/Sewer—Mike discussed earlier.
2. Ryan, new employee, works on streaming our services

Pastor's Report--Pastor Matt

- I. Pastoral Acts
 - A. There have been fewer funerals and internments this fall.
 - B. There has been an increase in requests for our Good Shepherd fund.
 - C. Pr. Margie's visits continue.
 - D. There have been more baptisms.
- II. Main Portfolio Areas
 - A. Constitution
 - A draft of the constitution is in process with the Synod.
 - B. Worship
 1. Our new organist, Julie, will be introduced at the service on January 8. She will begin playing on January 15.
 2. Numbers are up, with a median of 165 in-house and 50-75 online Sunday.
We are having more first-time visitors and more returning visitors.
 3. Advent service theme is Love, Hope, Peace

C. Stewardship

1. Building for the Future II
 - The visits went very well.
 - Visited with over 75% of the congregation.
2. Fall Stewardship appeal has had great feedback.
3. Staff are working on the budget.

D. Evangelism

1. Held a new member class with 9 people.
2. New member Sunday is 12/4.

E. Discipleship

F. Staff

1. Staff retreat went very well.
 - Spiritual growth
 - Team building
 - Looking at vision and mission
 - Prep for staff and BOA retreat next year—The *Scrappy Church* book looks at churches that have come back from hard times.

III. Miscellaneous

A. Greater church

1. Redefining congregational size
2. Congregational identity

B. Personal

1. Pr. Matt—outpatient back surgery on 12/7
2. Personal theological study on change in church doctrine

***Scrappy Church* by Thom S. Rainer**

It's time to rethink church size. For the purpose of this article, I define church size as average weekly worship attendance, including children and youth who may not be in the primary worship service. In other words, we count every person attending a worship weekend (or other days for a few churches).

Thanks to Lifeway Research, we have a clearer understanding of the sizes of churches. I don't know if you'll be surprised.

I was.

What is a large church?

Let's look at the breakdown of churches by average worship attendance.

Under 50 in attendance: 31% of all churches

51-99: 37%

100-249: 24%

250 and above: 8%

All the numbers are fascinating, but the largest category should cause us to pause. Only 8% of churches have an attendance of 250 or more. These churches now define the category, "very large churches."

Of course, there are still megachurches of 2,000 or more in worship attendance and mid-megachurches of 1,000 to 1,999, but those churches are outliers. Most megachurches had 1,000 in attendance. If a church has an attendance of 250, its size is in the largest category.

New Names for New Categories

There will be some readers who cringe at the numerical emphasis of this article. I get it. Numbers are neither ultimate nor penultimate. But these numbers represent a sea change in how we look at or define church size.

For now, we at Church Answers will speak of churches in the following categories so we can be on the same page.

Under 50 in attendance: smaller churches

51-99: mid-size churches

100-249 large churches

250 and above: larger churches

Implications of these Paradigmatic Changes

We will discuss the implications of these changes in depth at our podcast, Rainer on Leadership. But it does not take much thought to understand the world of American congregations is dramatically different than just ten years ago.

More pastors and staff will be co-vocational and bi-vocational.

Equipping church members to do the work of ministry is as vital as always.

Ministry and theological training must adapt to this new reality.

Search committees will be looking for a different type of pastor.

Church budgets will be smaller.

Denominations must refocus their ministry and support of this new paradigm,

More churches will need to be adopted or they will die.

The list could go on.

The New Reality

Over two-thirds of American churches have a worship attendance under 100. As noted earlier, the new very large church has an attendance of 250 or higher.

It is indeed a new reality.

Old Business

1. Nominations—Aaron reported that the committee only has one spot yet to fill.

New Business

1. Wednesday Night Dinners are opening up. —LaRae noted that beginning on 12/21, dinners will be served both inside and outside. Also, we are no longer able to get food from Loaves and Fishes.
2. Thanksgiving—LaRae's family cooked and served the Wednesday night Thanksgiving dinner,

How have we furthered the ministry of St. Philip's? —All

We are able to pay our bills.

Closing--The Lord's Prayer

Our father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive