

APPROVED

Gustavus Adolphus

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Congregational Council Meeting
June 26, 2018
Ronald C. Peterson Library 6pm

Present: Pastor John Hierlinger, Denise Hassenstab, Rick Howard, Amy Lipetzky, Elaine Olson, Bruce Pelava, Jason Wittenberg, Brett Bowman, Dan Shogren

Absent: Pastor Amanda Simons

Devotions: Bruce Pelava led a devotion written by a pastor who was reflecting on attending his first youth gathering and encouraging congregation members to pray for this year's participants. The scripture verses were from Lamentations 3:22-33. He also led us in prayer.

Call to order: President Denise Hassenstab called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm.

Virtual Votes since the 05.22.18 Council Meeting: Motion to approve the May 22, 2018 minutes was made by Jason Wittenberg, seconded by Amy Lipetzky; **approval** by virtual vote with final **approval** on May 25, 2018.

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda was made by Dan Shogren, seconded by Jason Wittenberg; unanimously approved.

Approval of Financials/Treasurer's Report: Brett reviewed the May 2018 Finance Report. The net income for May 2018 was -8597.73. Property expenses continue to be higher than usual and the receipts for the Gateway Fund were lower than usual. A letter will go out with the 6/30 giving statements to inform congregation members about GA's current financial status. Rick Howard moved to approve the report, seconded by Amy Lipetzky; unanimously approved.

Old Business:

1. 2017 Audit – The audit was completed on Saturday 6/2 by Dave Greffe and Len Peterson. They submitted a letter to the church council and Finance Committee stating that this was performed. A motion to approve the letter was made by Bruce Pelava, seconded by Elaine Olson; unanimously approved.
2. Capital Campaign Update – Pastor John reported that the Stewardship Committee met on Tuesday 6/19. Proposals from 3 consultants were reviewed. Blair Anderson of New Horizon Congregational Consulting was chosen to provide coaching and advising needed to conduct the campaign. Pastor John stated that establishing a major gifts fund and overall messaging are the two main congregation needs. The cost of the consulting services is \$8625.00 for designing a 3-year campaign. Pastor John negotiated that 2/3 of the cost will be paid up front and the remaining 1/3 will be paid after Commitment Sunday. The Stewardship Committee proposed to spend up to \$12000.00 for the total cost of the campaign. The capital campaign and annual

stewardship drive will be held simultaneously. Blair Anderson will lead the Stewardship Committee through setting a specific goal for the campaign to communicate to the congregation. After 3 years, one realistic goal is to have only the General Fund. Discussion followed. Rick Howard moved to approve the \$12000.00 expenditure which includes the \$8625.00 for hiring Blair Anderson, seconded by Bruce Pelava; unanimously approved.

3. Staff/Council Retreat Follow-Up – Pastor John created a Cottage Meeting Summary Report that has been shared on Google Docs for congregation members to add their ideas. Some council members reported that a lot of GA church history was shared and reminiscing was done at the cottage meetings. The summary report was compared with the ideas generated at staff/council retreat. It was determined that the 5 focus areas will be: Family/Youth Ministry, Senior Ministry, Hospitality, Community Connections, and Worship Life. The goal is to have a 2- to 3-year comprehensive strategic plan in place by January 2019. The clergy coach Pastor John has been working with suggested forming a sub-committee for each focus area. These committees will take the information gathered and choose 2-3 goals to work on. A Strategic Task Force will be formed with 3-4 people on each sub-committee. Amy Lipetzky volunteered to serve on the Family/Youth Ministry sub-committee and Elaine Olson volunteered to serve on the Hospitality sub-committee. Pastor John stated that he hopes to have the task force and sub-committees formed by the end of the summer. He will work on identifying other congregation members to serve and will report back to the council in July. Training will be provided for all members involved. Pastor John mentioned that a congregational meeting will be scheduled for a Sunday in November to present the proposed strategic plan. He also mentioned that both he and Pastor Amanda are planning to have conversations with the precinct commander of the St. Paul Police Department and a guidance counselor from Johnson High School to get their perspectives about issues facing the East Side.
4. Luther Hall Upgrade/Choir Loft Updates –Rick Howard reported that Phil from WNAV is coming Friday 6/29 to install the screen and that the projector has been ordered. Pastor John informed the council that Pastor Amanda and David Simons donated a monitor.
5. Intern Committee Update – Pastor John reported that Cindy Olson Crayne, Xang Her, and Ted Madison have agreed to serve on our Intern Committee in addition to Cathy Ronning. He attended supervisor training last week at the seminary. The committee will meet at a later date.
6. Eastside Area Ministry Update/Meals From The Heart – Pastor John informed the council that due to the Meals From The Heart event, Summer worship times will continue through Sunday 9/16, with only one service being held on Sunday 9/2.
7. Wi-Fi Update – The Wi-Fi has been updated. The project cost less than expected due to one less access point being installed.
8. National Night Out – Rob Sebo Lubke is the main contact person for this event. A bike rodeo and a free dinner is planned, along with a bike helmet giveaway and face painting. Look for further communication.
9. State Fair Parking Chairperson – Pastor John reported that plans are underway for this project. GA will not collect and distribute water bottles this year. A water jug will still be provided by the state fair and GA will have an additional water jug available.
10. Parking Lot – Pastor John informed the council that more work needs to be done in order to begin this project. The bids that have been received have come in higher than \$20000.00. He will work with Jason Wittenberg to review these bids. The plan is to have the repairs done by winter.

New Business:

1. Visitation Ministry – Pastor John explained the Stephen Ministry model. He and Pastor Amanda are still looking for ways to meet immediate visitation needs. Stephen Ministry may be potentially launched in 6-12 months. A suggestion was made to connect with existing Care Team members to fill in gaps. The formation of the Senior Ministry sub-committee may help to address this issue.
2. Fall Programming – Church staff met on Tuesday 6/12 to plan programming for the coming year. On Wednesdays, dinner will be served from 5:30-6:00, worship will be held at 6:00, and programming will begin at 6:30 this year. Small group studies are planned. Kimberly, the Intern, will be plugged in to this. The focus for this year is gratitude. Church staff will be doing a book study based on *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks* by Diana Butler Bass. Fall programming will be up and running by 9/30.

Committee Reports were given. Bruce Pelava reported on behalf of the Worship and Music that the cost of the permit for the choir loft upgrade was \$189.00. 99% of floor is framed and a city inspector will be coming Friday. Chairs will be installed if the inspector approves the work already completed. The upgrade is projected to be finished by the end of July. A dedication service for the refurbished choir loft will be held on Sunday 10/7. Denise Hassenstab reported on behalf of the Global Mission committee that the Eats for Education event will include African clothing and decor. A meeting will be held at a later date for those interested in taking a trip to Tanzania in 2020. Amy Lipetzky reported on behalf of the Christian Education committee that the 2018-19 calendar has been set.

Council Schedule for 2018: Usually the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm. 7/24, 8/28, 9/25, 10/23, 11/27, (no Dec. meeting)

Motion to Adjourn: Denise moved to adjourn, seconded by Dan Shogren at 7:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: July 24, 2018, at 6:00 pm at Brunson's Pub, St. Paul.

Submitted by Cathy Ronning, Council Secretary