

Charity Lutheran Church
Vision Council Minutes
Tuesday January 13, 2014 – 5:30 p.m.

Members Present

Staff: Pastor Randy, Pastor Scott, Doug Leet, Jen Skjod, Pastor Sam, Kari Knudson, Rob Peske

Vision Council: Don Nordquist, Cheryl Voll, Nancy Jensen, Kent Farley, Aaron Edland, Barb Weaver, Rob Bauer

Special Guest: Doug Berglund

Don called the meeting to order. Don recognized new Vision Council members Barb and Rob. The entire assembly did introductions. Individual group prayer requests were discussed. Randy opened the meeting in prayer. The meeting agenda was approved.

1. Prayer Requests

The following existing bulletin prayer list was approved with a few changes:

- *Thank and praise God for His generous outpouring of love on His people of Charity...for making Himself known through His son Jesus; for the provision of our wonderful pastors and staff; for the monies provided to pay off mortgage and for funds for our ministries; for the new children, youth and families joining us at Charity; and for the multiple members who serve quietly and generously.*
- *Ask that God would guide and direct us in every decision made at Charity.*
- *Holy Spirit, we welcome you. Make us into the church you want us to be so that all may know Jesus and His love.*
- *Thanksgiving for safety during Charity's youth trips and events.*
- *Pray for the success of ongoing congregational and youth events.*
- *Lift up new Charity disciples and pray for good stewardship in church growth.*
- *Offer congregational prayers for the changes in our State and communities concerning growth and transitions with the influx of people.*
- *Pray for enduring unity of our staff and continued growth for all our worship services.*
- *Pray that the current "Praxis" preaching series will be enlightening to all and that it will bring encouragement and conviction to our walk with the Lord.*
- *Thanks for the success of the Life Long Learning courses now under way; for the leaders, all participants, and the small groups that are formed. May it all glorify the Lord.*
- *Pray for guidance for the congregation and our leadership as we submit to the Great Commission in all ways including ministry support, community outreach and continued assistance for Surprise.*
- *Prayers for the Long Range Planning Committee ...that the Holy Spirit would guide their discussion and decisions regarding Charity's future direction.*

2. Staff Reports

a. Pastor Scott –

- i. Pastor Scott reported that pastoral care needs have been heavy. He requested the congregation lift those up in prayer.
- ii. Scott performed two funerals this week, Thursday and Saturday. Scott stated he enjoys helping people during difficult times.
- iii. GriefShare is starting January 29th. Kris Morrisette and Lorri Mittleider will help lead the new group. A GriefShare team is being assembled. Hosting of the program will be shared with Evangel to allow for year round coverage for people in need of the program.
- iv. The recent Stephen Ministry training class is just wrapping up. The new class of six people will be soon commissioned.
- v. Scott and Randy are working out together at the Y. It has been a good time for them to connect more on a personal level in addition to providing exercise.
- vi. The Remembrance service in December went well, with approximately 40 people in attendance.

b. Pastor Randy –

- i. Randy reported that the Christmas Eve services went well. The 4th service helped to lessen the crowding. The only service that included an overflow crowd was at 3:30 so there was room at all the others. The other 3 services were comfortable. A total of 1,300 people attended Christmas Eve services at Charity.
- ii. Randy expressed appreciation for Bob Peske, who is doing a great job stepping in for Luke Torgerson. WOW has restarted with Landon Schmeichel leading worship for that service.
- iii. Randy echoed Scott's comment on the high need for pastoral care recently.
- iv. A Quest meeting was held last week. The approach going forward is that whoever preaches on Sunday morning services will also preach the Sunday evening Quest service as well. Rob has done some commercials to advertise the service and increase growth.

c. Pastor Sam –

- i. Sam commented that there was a great opening to the Monday night "Winter Buster" small groups which include a study on World Religions, a study on prayer (Circle Makers) and a parenting class. 105 people were served at the meal, along with 59 kids registered. The night went very smoothly for the number of people.
- ii. Thursday night will have Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage. There are 49 people signed up and the class will be held in the Sanctuary.
- iii. The Red Lodge ski trip is this weekend. The bus is full.
- iv. There are lots of youth events coming up. "My Part" focuses on prayer for Charity. Prayer events will be held on Wednesday nights to circle and pray for the Church.

d. Jen Skjod

- i. Jen did Vision Council group and individual pictures.
- ii. Jen commented that the new Charity website has received good feedback. She has been busy updating content. The site has had an average of 1500 hits to home page per month.

- e. Rob Peske –
 - i. Rob noted he has been in full time employment with the Church for 2 full weeks.
 - ii. Rob commented that the technology in the Church is getting old, such as the dying DVD player, increasing the difficulty recording and posting services online. The AV staff is going to stop guaranteeing all sermons or other special services, such as baptisms and weddings, online.
 - iii. Posting pod casts and worship services online have been going well. There are dedicated people who want to hear the services, with probably 20 hits per week for each.
 - iv. The cable company has been updating their servers, creating an issue with providing current WOW services through Cable access television. Charity WOW services are televised at 6:00 on Sundays evenings. The Charity WOW podcast is listed in the Top 200 Christian broadcasts on Podomatic.
 - v. Rob requested that some excess income from 2014 giving be allowed for sound and stage upgrades. He spent 6 hours moving stuff around the other day.
 - vi. Rob would like to get together with the new Worship and Music portfolio leader. He's trying to create a system on decision making for worship service content. There is a high level of conflict currently on what will be included in certain services.
 - vii. Rob expressed interested in planning a trip to Valley Family Church this summer with the worship leaders and interested Vision Council members. Rob stated that Valley Family is roughly 10 years ahead of Charity's growth and may provide a good source of Best Practices for Charity.
- f. Kari Knudson
 - i. Kari mentioned that rather than just providing supervision for children of parents attending small groups, it might be time to start offering programs to kids on Monday and Thursday nights as well. She recommended a part time person to run programs those nights, which shouldn't be hard as multiple people have approached Kari concerning part time work in Kids ministry.

3. Financial and Administrative Report

- a. Treasurer's Report: Dallas was gone. Doug reported that December's income was \$165,681, bringing the preliminary 2014 total income to \$1,117,057, which is \$105,064 actual giving over budget. The final 2014 income will be available for the February Vision Council meeting.

4. Old Business

- a. Approval of Minutes from December 2014 Meeting: Approved by e-mail.
- b. 2015 Budget and Annual Assembly: There was group discussion concerning the recommendation that the \$44,000 Growth Fund must be put aside and must not be spent. The comment was interpreted that funds can be used from this budgetary line item at any time, but only for future Church growth items.

4. New Business

- a. Officer Election: Don Nordquist was nominated as President and seconded. Approved by all. Kent Farley was nominated as Vice President, which was seconded and approved by all. Aaron Edland nominated as Secretary, which was seconded and approved by all.

- b. Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) Discussion: Kevin Brown gave a report on the LRPC decision process. He overviewed the options they had considered, which were very comprehensive. Expansion of the current location and doing nothing were determined as not options, so exploring new property and building was determined as the preferred option to pursue. The LRPC requested approval by the Vision Council to sign realtor Chuck Huber to start looking for land and to also have an appraisal performed of the current property to know asset value for financing needs.

The appraisal would require a \$1,500 retainer fee with an estimated cost of \$5,000. Joe Ibach of Dakota Appraisal & Consulting was recommended. The 2005 estimate for the property was \$1.2MM and \$1.7MM after construction. Nancy asked a question on what the agent fee was for Chuck? Kevin did not know and stated that he will find out. It was stated that appraisal work should be done now, so that when an opportunity would present itself, Charity could use the information. Rob B. asked if a second bid had been obtained for the appraisal. Kevin stated there had not been a second bid.

Aaron asked a question about whether the second campus option had been considered. Kevin stated that it was still an option, but that the group was united in the decision to keep the Church together as a single campus. Aaron asked what size lot was being considered. Kevin stated a 10-15 acre lot size is the target.

Nancy made a comment for the need for Congregational communication concerning Church expansion decisions. Jen mentioned a letter explaining the actions of the LRPC to the congregation would be prudent. Sam suggested a congregational informational meeting to explain recent actions in the next few weeks would also be good. Randy suggested a reoccurring monthly meeting for the congregation to know what's happening with the LRPC to be transparent and open for questions and communications. Nancy suggested having a congregational meeting before going forward with the appraisal and the realtor agreement. Don suggested that the meeting could be done January 25th and a vote by the Vision Council in February concerning the subject. February 24th is the next LRPC meeting.

- c. Portfolio Assignments: Doug Leet explained the core ministry portfolio assignments. Cheryl, Nancy and Kent chose to keep their current assignments. Rob chose the open portfolio of Transforming and Barb chose the open portfolio of Youth. Doug spoke to how past Vision Council retreats have worked concerning setting goals for the year. The group decided that February 21st would tentatively work for a Vision Council retreat date.
- d. Vision Council Meeting: The Vision Council will continue to meet the third Tuesday of every month. Don requested ideas for curbing the length of meetings.
- e. Discussion about New Staff and Large Expenditure Decision Making Process: Aaron presented a draft process framework for decision making concerning new staff hires and large expenditures. The process would include 3 steps including identifying the expenditure amount, generating a proposal with a required minimum information and a decision making timeframe. There was group discussion and it was determined that the group will think more about the process and bring them to the next meeting for a final decision.
- f. LCMC Grant: Nancy gave an overview of the \$5,000 grant opportunity. The requirements are for a discipleship program sponsored by Thrivent Financial.

Pastor Randy ended the meeting in prayer at 8:00 p.m. The next meeting will be February 17th at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Aaron Edland - Vision Council Secretary