

**Charity Lutheran Church**  
**Vision Council Minutes**  
**Tuesday January 17, 2017 – 5:30 p.m.**

**Members Present**

Staff: Pastor Scott, Doug Leet, Pastor Sam

Vision Council: Don Nordquist, Aaron Edland, Dallas Sailer, Connie Geiger, Matt Kaldor, Barb Weaver, Rob Bauer

Special Guest(s): Shane and Becky Naslund, the WOW team

Don called the meeting to order and Pastor Scott opened the meeting in prayer. The meeting agenda was approved. Shane Naslund mentioned that the meeting on Saturday went well with the group of 10 and expressed their appreciation.

**1. Prayer Requests**

The following existing bulletin prayer list was approved:

- *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.*
- *Thanks for the new families and individuals joining us at Charity and for the many members who serve quietly and generously.*
- *Ask the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us in every decision made at Charity including the development and implementation of a Vision that places Charity on the road whose course is set by our Lord.*
- *Holy Spirit, we welcome you. Make us into the Church you want us to be so that all may know Jesus and His love.*
- *Prayers for God's solutions to the difficulties and challenges facing Charity at this time and trusting that His Will be done.*
- *Thanksgiving for safety during Charity's youth trips and events.*
- *Pray for the success of ongoing congregational and youth events/ministries.*
- *Lift up new Charity disciples and pray for good stewardship in church growth.*
- *Offer congregational prayers for the changes in our State and communities as they address changes occurring within its jurisdictions.*
- *Pray for our awesome staff and the good work they do. Prayers for unity and working together as a team.*
- *Prayers for continued growth of our worship services; especially for the Traditions Service and the WOW service on Sunday night.*
- *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 the Holy Spirit will guide the direction and all decisions regarding Charity's future. Prayers specifically for the Facilities Task Force and other Charity ministries.*
- *Prayer for the WINTER BUSTER programming and the ministry of Life Long Learning and other activities.*

- *Pray for the persecuted church around the world!*

## **2. Staff Reports**

- a. Pastor Scott –
  - i. Scott has been working on a preaching schedule. He has contacted people to help fill spots with Randy's departure such as Terry Sletto, Pastor Matt Anderson, and Pastor Bob Nordvall. The decision that the Vision Council will make concerning allowing Randy to continue preaching during WOW will influence what he needs to fill.
  - ii. Scott wants to request the congregation ask God for His guidance and direction through this time of transition with prayer and fasting.
- b. Pastor Sam –
  - i. Last week was very crazy for Sam. Sam has been asking God to show him direction for his future at Charity. Last Thursday was a terrible day and he felt in a fog. Thursday night Sam met with Brenda Whitman and Shelly Traynor from the Church Health Team and prayed Friday morning. Sam felt that he needed to help support Scott and Charity during this time of transition and remain engaged in a way that is practical for him. The Vision Council mentioned they were very happy that he remains supportive.

## **3. Financial Report** - Dallas gave the report.

- a. December income was \$198,919, which is \$96,875 over budget and \$68,450 above actual expenses for the month. Attendance on Sundays was 2,136 people. December 2016 income was \$379 below December 2015 income.
- b. 2016 annual income total is \$1,351,506, \$50,446 over budget and \$83,686 above actual expenses for the year. 2016 total income is \$101,704 over 2015 yearly income.
- c. Dallas mentioned that he wanted to apply the old formula of applying the 60% income overage into the Vision Fund and 40% into staff and congregational requests. Doug mentioned that more money will be needed this year for snow removal.

*Note: Charity Lutheran's monthly financial report is available for review, by members of the congregation, in the office. Please contact Doug or Judy to review.*

## **4. Administrative Report**

- a. Doug will discuss the budget in the Old Business section.
- b. Church Communication: There was conversation with Becky Naslund about improving future communication with the Church on Vision Council meetings and decisions. Doug mentioned bullet points of Vision Council meetings on Facebook, website, and service slides could be a good start.

## **5. Old Business**

- a. Approval of Minutes from the December 2016 Meeting: There were some corrections noted by Doug and Scott. Motioned to approve with corrections by Barb, seconded by Rob and approved by all.
- b. Draft 2017 Budget: The initial 2017 draft budget increase over 2016 was 17.5%, \$227,000 higher than 2016 for a total of \$1,528,185. However, due to Randy's resignation, Doug revised and reduced the 2017 budget by \$115,831 (an 8.9% increase over 2016) for a total of \$1,416,000.

Other changes included eliminating the Executive Director of Ministry position and the secretarial position was moved to a 25 hour vs. 40 hours.

- c. Voters Assembly for 01/22/2017: Don reviewed the order of business required per bylaws.
- d. Vision Council Recommendation for the Facilities Task Force: Matt recommended putting the Facilities Task Force on hold temporarily until the Church has a more established path going forward due to Randy's resignation. Doug mentioned that the Vision Council should consider renovations that are a priority in the children's area to get those done during the summer.
  - i. Matt mentioned the Facility Task Force should meet with Julie, Sam, Jess and Melissa to discuss improvements to the youth area that should be made over the summer.
  - ii. Doug mentioned that if the new offices won't be built in the near term he would like to revisit remodeling the current offices.

## 6. New Business

- a. WOW Worship Team Meeting – The Vision Council met with the WOW team concerning continuing Randy's preaching through the current semester and finishing in April. Don spoke to the reasons as to why the Vision Council voted not to allow Randy to preach through the end of the WOW season the prior week.
  - i. Rob Peske requested that they would like the Council to reconsider because it would be more difficult to bring in a new preacher. The replacement would have to be brought up to speed because the agenda is already set around Randy preaching.
  - ii. Julie commented that Randy should be brought in to preach through the end of WOW and take some pressure off the staff.
  - iii. Sam mentioned that bringing Randy back to the WOW team would allow the needs of the congregation to be met in the best way. He commented that if he would need to preach during the WOW services, he would not be able to help teach on Monday night during Lifelong Learning.
  - iv. Bob Peske commented that the cost for having some other preacher and losing the WOW worship team will be expensive and asked the WOW to continue with Randy.
  - v. Landon Schmeichel also encouraged the Council to keep Randy preaching even if the benefit would only be to serve one person.
  - vi. Rob Bauer asked the WOW team if they could keep the program going if Randy didn't come back. Rob Peske commented he thought that WOW may go on but would have a gradual decline.
  - vii. Tim Peske commented that without Randy, he thought there would be a small percentage remaining to keep the WOW program going successfully.
  - viii. Becky Naslund commented that she does the pro presenter.
  - ix. Sage Walz stated that there would be less consistency without Randy and it would be more confusing to the kids.
  - x. Matt commented that the Vision Council is prayerful about their decisions. He was appreciative of the WOW team's comments on the challenges without Randy and providing information on options. He asked the WOW team if they had a long-term plan for next fall. The group mentioned that they don't expect Randy to stay long term but wanted more time for transition and to find the next pastor.
- b. Vision Council and Staff Meetings – The Vision Council and staff will start meeting on the first Tuesday of the month with the first meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Matt commented that he wants to hear one success and one challenge from each staff member and Vision Council

member. The meeting is intended to be an hour long. It's not the place to solve the problems, just express needs and praises.

- c. VC and Congregation Communications - Doug mentioned adding bullet points on Facebook, the Charity website, rolling announcements and service slides.

The regular meeting ended at 8:40 p.m. Pastor Scott closed the meeting in prayer. The next meeting will be January 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. The February meeting will be on the 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m. The council then went into executive session.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Aaron Edland - Vision Council Secretary