

**Charity Lutheran Church**  
**Vision Council Minutes**  
**Tuesday March 15, 2016 – 5:30 p.m.**

**Members Present**

Staff: Doug Leet, Pastor Randy, Rob Peske

Vision Council: Don Nordquist, Aaron Edland, Dallas Sailer, Nancy Jensen, Barb Weaver, Rob Bauer

Special Guest:

Don called the meeting to order. Rob Peske opened the meeting in prayer. The meeting agenda was approved.

**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; for the tithes and offerings that enable us to be debt free and support our ministries and missions.*
- *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.*
- *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 the changes occurring in recent years.*
- *Pray for enduring unity of our staff and continued growth for all our worship services; especially Traditions and Quest.*
- *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 Living Stones Associates Consultation and the Long Range Planning Committee ...May the Holy Spirit guide the direction and all decisions regarding Charity's future.*
- *Pray for the Life Long Learning Winter Buster small group ministries currently underway and for the leaders and all participants, that they will be positively impacted by these studies.*
- *Pray for the persecuted church around the world!*

## 2. Staff Reports

- a. Rob Peske –
  - i. The Easter services are coming along. There are many preparations to make. The theme is “I want more than fine.” There will be a drama included with the service to enforce the theme.
  - ii. Tickets for the Easter services are going quick. 200 tickets have been distributed for the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. 100 tickets for the 8:00 service.
- b. Pastor Randy –
  - i. Easter planning is coming along. Things look good. Cards will be handed out when people leave if they want information to be “More than fine.”
  - ii. There have been two suicide interventions with youth recently. One of the youth had a father die yesterday. Sam and Julie have been doing a lot of counselling work recently with the youth.
  - iii. There has also been a heavy counselling load for the pastors recently. Randy is concerned about less options for Christian counselling in the community and the increased volume of counselling needs. Only one male and the rest female. The Church needs to determine what the long term approach is for counselling in terms of manpower.
  - iv. Randy advised that he may be involved as a potential bone marrow donor and that could require some time off.

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

- a. January income was \$115,428, which is \$12,127 short of budget and \$6,585 over actual expenses. January income was \$40,361 over January 2015 with 2,979 people in attendance on Sundays for the month.
- b. February income was \$98,319 which was \$3,724 below budget for the month and \$15,851 below budget for the year. February income was \$24,431 over February 2015, with 2,336 people in attendance on Sundays. The February Statement of Activities was not finished, so YTD actual information is not available.
- c. Dallas recommended some additional office help to address the items that need to be accomplished. Perhaps 4 hours, two days a week. Doug is going to put an inquiry out for volunteer help to address.

## 4. Administrative Report

- a. Doug gave the report on the Administrative Team meetings. The group met on Tues. March 8<sup>th</sup>
  - i. Cash Handling Policy – Doug read the proposed policy for offering handling at services.
    - i. Currently the ushers collect the offering. The funds would be put in the safe and later counted by the secretary and second counter.
  - ii. Firearm Policy - A policy for firearm handling was discussed last fall after he received a request to carry by a member. Sam has also reported an inquiry by a Church attendee who asked if there was anyone armed during the services.
    - i. Doug created a draft policy that he read to the group which defines that the Church governing group can grant permission, which reflects the City ordinance.
    - ii. Nancy mentioned we should find out what it would cost to have an expert person carry a gun in Church.
    - iii. Officer Clint Fuller will be coming May 2<sup>nd</sup> to review the facility for safety.

- iv. The north entry to the children's area will be locked in the future on Sunday and Wednesday. There are check in points at the east end of the children's area.
- iii. Doug talked to Jason Mittlestad at BPS about the portable for youth group use. There may be 1 or 2 available. Jason will follow up with Doug next month.
  - i. Doug investigated the installation with Fetzer Electric. A preliminary consultation shows is that it is definitely feasible to have a unit in the north parking lot.
- iv. Facility Use Policy – Doug is working on the Facility Use policy.

## 5. Old Business

- a. Approval of Minutes from the February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Meeting: Approved by e-mail.
- b. Living Stone Consultation Update: Nancy and Don reported.
  - i. Shelly Traynor and Brenda Whitman will co-chair the Church Health Team. Jerry Walz will head the Facilities Task Force. The leads are currently selecting their teams. 6 to 8 people will be needed for the Church Health Team.
  - ii. The outcome of the Living Stones consultation will give Charity ways on how to double attendance, what can be done at the current facility and beyond.
  - iii. The Living Stones visit is scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup>. Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup> is the big meeting with the Vision Council and staff.
- c. Short Term Recommendations to handle crowding with Children's and Youth Ministries: Julie is rotating one grade upstairs to allow for more space in the youth room. There aren't crowding issues currently, around 260 people for WOW. 338 seats are available in the sanctuary. Video is running.
  - i. Registration for either Sunday or Wednesday WOW will begin on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

## 6. New Business

- a. Portfolio Discussion: Rob Bauer had a handout on revised Portfolios. It included Adult Education, Outreach and Stewardship Ed in one portfolio, essentially combining the old "Transforming and Stewardship" and "Nurturing" portfolios. Rob recommended one Vision Council person taking the new combined portfolio and the other VC member now freed up to handle "Special Projects" such as Living Stones assistance. Rob will cover the new combined portfolio and Matt will cover the Special Projects.
- b. Disposition of Carry Over Monies – Doug handed out a recommendation list for 2015 carry-over funds of \$105,068. Aaron motioned to approve the expenditure of \$63,000 for the Building and Ministry Expansion fund, \$3,000 for a new curtain system, \$7,000 for HD cameras and lens, and \$4,000 for security cameras, door locks and safe. The remaining recommendations will be approved individually on an as needed basis or when appropriate based on the Living Stones consultation. Finally, a gift of \$250 for part time and \$500 for full time employees were approved for staff appreciation.

Randy closed the meeting in prayer. The regular meeting ended at 7:50 p.m. The next meeting will be April 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. The food assignment will be Barb. The group went into executive session and Don closed the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Aaron Edland - Vision Council Secretary