

Charity Lutheran Church
Vision Council Minutes
Tuesday April 19th, 2016 – 5:30 p.m.

Members Present

Staff: Doug Leet, Pastor Scott, Rob Peske, Pastor Sam, Lorri Mittleider, Pastor Randy

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

Special Guest:

Don called the meeting to order. Pastor Scott 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 as they address changes occurring within its jurisdictions.*
- *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.*
- *Prayer of thanks for the success of the Life Long Learning Winter Buster small group ministries and for all who were involved including the meal serving staff and small group leaders.*
- *Pray for the persecuted church around the world!*

2. Staff Reports

a. Pastor Scott –

- i. The last month has been very busy with the Easter services and three funerals. The Easter service went well overall. Compliments to the staff.
- ii. The Grief Share session was successful and finished up two weeks ago. There were twenty attendees on average.
- iii. Scott is evaluating the Children's Ministry over the past year; how everything operated, any additional resources needed next year, etc.
- iv. Quest numbers have gone down, averaging about 40 people. The staff is looking to disband Quest over the summer, thinking it will dissipate even further. Vision Council will make a decision by the May meeting for proper notification.

b. Rob Pekse –

- i. 20 families (50 people) have signed up for Sunday WOW and 44 for Wednesday WOW. The staff will also be calling people to better define attendance numbers in the fall. The staff determined that 100 people would be the goal for starting the Sunday WOW service. People are providing feedback that they are interested in choosing to attend on Sunday due to high attendance during Wednesdays.
- ii. Rob is working with Neil Brown of CRU, Surprise Church and other avenues to try and increase college/young adult age attendance at Charity for the Sunday WOW.
- iii. Easter went really, really well at Legacy. 300 people at Charity at the 8 a.m. service, around 500 for each of the other two service at Legacy. There was lots of room for everyone to sit with their family and everything went really smooth.
- iv. Charity University will be held this summer, in July or August, a 1 to 1.5 hour training for sound people, musicians, ushers and presenters. It will be 3 nights leading into a final worship celebration.
- v. Rob has not ordered new video equipment yet, but he's meeting with Crystal Wrolstad who has past experience with video production. She will help Rob get the items ordered in the next month.

c. Pastor Sam –

- i. Sam stated the recent confirmation service was a good indicator of how youth ministry works, through relationships. Julie and Sam are in more of a crisis mode with the high numbers of youth and are not able to develop good, quality relationships with the kids. Sam and Julie handed out a recommendation for four - 15 hour part time Youth Assistants.
- ii. High school youth group attendance starts to drop off in the 10th grade and then completely in college. Sam has been talking with Troy Shirley of CRU to discuss a plan for better forming relationships during this critical time to keep them involved in the Church and with Christ.
- iii.

d. Julie Dolbec –

- i. Julie reported there have been a few youth that are taking much of Sam's and Julie's time and many kids go neglected as a result. Kids are losing interest in youth group as a result. The proposed youth assistants will help keep all kids engaged and in relationship. Adding the Sunday WOW will also help. Aaron questioned whether volunteers would work to establish the relationships vs. paid part time employees. Julie stated that the kids take paid people more seriously than volunteers.

- ii. The portable and the renovation with the Trinity room will help handle the larger numbers. The 9th graders don't come to the Junior High time on Wednesday because of the 6th graders acting wild. More space and help is required.
- iii. The senior high numbers are in the 40's whereas many churches have single digit groups.
- e. Lorri Mittleider –
 - i. Working on VBS, security downstairs, princess and superhero parties. Ministry Tracker check in is going well.

3. Financial Report - Dallas gave the report.

- a. March income was \$107,278, which is \$5,233 over budget and \$9,338 over expenses for the month. March income was \$2,774 over March 2015 income. Attendance on Sundays was 3,039 people.
- b. 2016 total income is \$321,026, \$10,618 under budget and \$3,789 below actual for the year.
- c. The Vision Fund for church growth is at \$263,000.
- d. A new rotary safe is on order to better control cash handling.

4. Administrative Report

- a. Staffing – There was a group discussion of the overall staff situation, children's ministry personnel, and the need for additional preschool help and youth workers.
- b. Firearms Policy – Doug handed out a draft Charity Firearms Policy. The group reviewed. Aaron motioned to approve, Matt seconded. Approved by all.
- c. Church Safety Evaluation – May 2nd Officer Fuller from the BPD will visit Charity and evaluate the overall safety of the facility.
- d. Cash Handling Policy – Doug handed out a draft Charity Cash Handling Policy. The group reviewed. Barb motioned for approval, Connie seconded. Approved by all.
- e. Secretary Assistant Volunteer - Bonnie Fix has agreed to help Judy Smith, Church Secretary, during the week to allow for some uninterrupted time.
- f. Youth Portable – Doug has talked with Bismarck Public Schools recently about the availability of extra portables. The district is still evaluating the needed units for 2016/2017. Doug received a quote from Ferrel Fetzer with Fetzer Electric for installation of the portable. Installation would be approximately \$7,000 and \$3,000 to move it into place. Churches have now been approved by the City Council to have a portable for up to 3 years, renewing the permit yearly.
- g. Riverside Harvest – Doug spoke with Alivia Wamboldt, the principal at Janet Myrnie School. She has concerns of bringing Riverside Harvest to the school as she doesn't want to attract more transients to the neighboring Sons of Norway Park via the ministry. It doesn't appear that location will be a viable alternative. There may be potential to partner with Bismarck Community Church on the ministry.
- h. Charity Core Ministries – A proposal from Rob Bauer was reviewed to combine the Transforming and Nurturing portfolios into one Adult Education and Small Group portfolio. It was decided to keep Stewardship Education in the Adult Education and Small Group.

5. Old Business

- a. Approval of Minutes from the March 15th, 2016 Meeting: Approved by all.
- b. Living Stone Consultation Update: Living Stones is coming next Wednesday April 27th for the Integrated Consultation. An invitation was given at the services on Sunday to invite people to the Saturday April 30th leadership session. All congregational members are encouraged to

attend. The meeting will be at Century Baptist from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nancy is developing a final agenda by the end of this week. Living Stones have been reviewing the survey data in preparation for the visit.

- c. Disposition of Carry Over Monies – Doug has received quotes for door locks and is investigating curtaining systems.

Pastor Randy closed the meeting in prayer. The regular meeting ended at 8:10 p.m. The next meeting will be May 17th at 5:30 p.m. The food assignment will be Connie.

Respectfully Submitted,
Aaron Edland - Vision Council Secretary