

Charity Lutheran Church
Vision Council Minutes
Tuesday May 16, 2017 – 5:30 p.m.

Members Present

Staff: Pastor Scott, Doug Leet

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

Special Guest(s): Kari Knudson (Call Committee)

Matt called the meeting to order, the group talked about prayer requests, and 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.*
- *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.*
- *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.*
- *Pray 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 ministry of Life Long Learning and other activities.*
- *Pray for the persecuted church around the world!*

2. Call Committee Update

- a. Kari Knudson – Kari, Call Committee Secretary, handed out minutes and discussed items from their May 10th meeting:
 - i. Kari handed out a draft congregational assessment to get opinions on items related to the call process. Doug mentioned checking with Sue to use survey monkey instead of a hard copy.
 - ii. The call committee is considering minutes on the web.
 - iii. There was a call process steps handout that the call committee made on recommendations from Steve Lien with LCMC.
 - iv. The call committee will fill out a bio that can be published, making the congregation more familiar with the call committee members. They are also planning to wear nametags in Church.
 - v. Kari requested a budget for interviewing candidates.

3. Staff Reports

- a. Pastor Scott –
 - i. Scott is identifying the specific boundaries of the counseling policy for various Church positions, staff and volunteer.
 - ii. Scott finalized the preaching series for the summer, starting May 28th. The June series will be on prayer and the July and August series will be focused on Ephesians. Scott is incorporating Sam Coleman, Pastor Bob and Terry Sletto into every other week through the summer and into the fall.
 - iii. Steven Ministry will not be having a class this fall due to low sign up numbers.
 - iv. Scott is working with the Lifelong Learning series on discipleship to fit in with the fall preaching series.
 - v. Scott is working with Jess Toman to develop what WOW will look like next fall. There is emphasis for the worship, youth and children's ministry groups to plan as a team and all provide input. Pastor Sam will be involved with the planning and preaching next fall.
 - vi. Sierra Vetter and Emily Brown have been hired. Two male youth assistants, Josh Enget and Frank Mendoza have interviewed and will be hired with a June 1st start date.

4. Financial Report - Dallas gave the report.

- a. April income was \$109,299, which is \$26,861 under budget and \$26,957 above actual expenses for the month. Attendance on Sundays was 2,766 people. April 2017 income was \$6,120 above April 2016 income.
- b. Annual income is \$392,264, which is \$97,916 under budget and \$14,862 below actual expenses for the year. 2017 yearly income is \$31,941 behind 2016 income.
- c. Dallas and Doug will update the budget based on all the changes that have happened this year. They will have the draft for the June meeting.

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.

5. Administrative Report – Doug gave the report.

- a. Doug stated that the updated website will be used as the main tool to provide Church communication, such as promotions. The public calendar on the website will have the preaching

schedule. A transition page is located on the website. Jess Toman wrote an article, "Dream Bigger" for the page. It automatically loads on the Facebook page. 451 people have read the article.

- b. Doug noted an e-mail from Matt Anderson and Surprise Church Plant in Mandan. Doug asked for the VC members to read it and respond with any comments or questions to him.
- c. Charlie Whitman recommended to Doug that Charity should have an e-mail policy. Doug asked John Samuelson to make a draft.
- d. Aaron mentioned that a congregant suggested that Charity should have a phone app. Doug mentioned that John Samuelson is working to expand Simple Church, Charity's software platform, that has functionalities such as Planning Center, Mail Chimp, Protect My Ministry (background checks), and creating apps.

5. Old Business

- a. Approval of Minutes: Past minutes will be sent by e-mail.
- b. Governance Team: Deb reported on her calls to the nominees for Governance Team members. Shane Naslund, Julie Slag, Al Jaeger, and Al Knudson have accepted. Bob Nelson said he will help research, but doesn't know if he wants to be a full member of the team. Mike Schneider and Kevin Kindel will be called to see if they would also like to serve.
 - i. Doug will provide *Winning on Purpose* by John Kaiser to team members interested.
- c. Pastor Sam's Agreement Letter: Sam has signed his agreement letter to preach this fall.
- d. Worship and Music Planning: Doug gave an update on discussions with Landon Schmeichel and Sage Walz. Connie and Doug met with Landon and Sage a few weeks ago. They both expressed interest in doing worship for the summer but not necessarily for the fall. Their defined roles would be leading worship, selecting music and leading practice. They want defined start and end dates.
 - i. Doug met with John Samuelson and developed a "Service Responsibilities" spreadsheet with the duties of each position involved in a service to identify areas of coverage needed when Rob leaves his role as Worship Coordinator.
 - ii. Sage and Landon recommended gathering a list of musicians as resources for future services.
 - iii. There was discussion among the group about advertising for a worship leader position in case the Church needs replacement for Landon and Sage if they do not continue into the fall.

6. New Business

- a. Call Committee Forum Discussion Points
 - i. Interim Pastor Consideration – The group discussed the interim role, need and timing of an interim pastor.
 - i. Scott shared his thoughts on an interim pastor. Scott mentioned that lay people could help with pastoral care. Terry Sletto and Sam could do more preaching, funerals, etc. Scott mentioned that he doesn't feel like there will be more than he can handle without an interim pastor.
 - ii. Doug had heard from members of the congregation questioning the need to search out an interim to help lighten Scott's load and perform congregational healing. Doug stated that it's his understanding there's not an abundance of trained interim pastors. Doug questioned the need for the role at this point and if the church can afford an interim pastor with current finances.

- iii. The group agreed to not pursue an interim pastor now.
- ii. Recommendation of Finalizing Governance Model Prior to Contacting Candidates – The VC agreed that the Governance Team should finalize their work before hiring a new pastor.
- iii. Volunteer Coordination Improvement Opportunities – The group discussed the need for better volunteer coordination and discussed solutions. Comments were made that currently volunteer forms are filled out, but nothing is done with them.
 - i. Scott mentioned Charity University can help train volunteers.
 - ii. Doug spoke to a connections ministry team being formed by Susan Sletto, Elaine Magstadt, Angie Milakovic, and Connie Geiger.
 - iii. Matt mentioned posting volunteer needs of the Church in addition to filling out volunteer forms.
 - iv. Doug mentioned the Planning Center (Simple Church) software could help with volunteer coordination. Doug will provide more information on what Simple Church software can do at the next meeting.
- iv. Prayer –
 - i. Shelley Traynor will be contacted about VC meeting items and relay them to the prayer team to lift them up to God.
 - ii. Terry McEvers had mentioned the need for intercessory prayer partners. Deb expanded on that need and importance.
- b. Facilities Task Force Recommendations for Consideration – Don gave an update on the Facilities Task force basement renovation plan. The task force requested further investigation by the architect into cost and detail for congregational approval this year for building next year.
 - i. Recommended Upgrades for This Year: Church security system (electronic lockdown, video system) and air handling for gazebo area. Doug mentioned the project cost is in the range of \$30,000 to \$40,000. Barb moves to approve the upgrades, Aaron seconded, approved by all.
- c. Nominating Committee – Delayed until June.

The regular meeting ended at 9:00 p.m. Pastor Scott closed the meeting in prayer. The next regular meeting will be June 20th at 5:30 p.m. Aaron will bring the food. The council then went into executive session.

Respectfully Submitted,
Aaron Edland - Vision Council Secretary