

**Charity Lutheran Church**  
**Vision Council Minutes**  
**Tuesday May 19, 2015 – 5:30 p.m.**

**Members Present**

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

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

Special Guests: Kevin Kindel

Don called the meeting to order. Individual group prayer requests were discussed. 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 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 upcoming June "End Times" preaching series in June will be enlightening to all and that it will bring encouragement and conviction to our walk with the Lord.*
- *Praise for the success of the Life Long Learning small group courses completed in March.*
- *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.*
- *Pray for the persecuted church around the world!*

## 2. Staff Reports

- a. Pastor Scott –
  - i. A new training class for Stephen Ministers will start in September. Four potential candidates are currently being interviewed.
  - ii. Scott and Sam are organizing the summer preaching schedule. There will be two series consisting of 4 Sundays in a row with a few Sunday's focusing on Mission Moments.
  - iii. Scott identified a couple of funerals for which he officiated.
  - iv. An Alpha planning meeting was held a few weeks ago for determining the fall schedule. Scott commented that it would be nice to modify Alpha into more breakout small groups.
- b. Pastor Randy –
  - i. Randy reported that the June preaching schedule is finished.
  - ii. The fall 2015 WOW topic has been decided, titled "Why Luther still Matters", themed as catechism for kids and adults.
  - iii. The 2016/2017 preaching schedule is currently being planned titled "The Gospel Project", which will be inclusive of age's kindergarten through adults, similar to "The Story" a few years ago.
  - iv. Pastor Sam and Shelley Traynor have put together the schedule for fall and winter small groups.
  - v. Randy's summer Sabbatical preparations and reservations are coming along well and he has already started on his book.
- c. Lorri Mittleider –
  - i. Lorri reported that VBS planning is going well.
- d. Rob Peske –
  - i. Rob reported that this is Landon Schmeichel's first week as worship leader at Quest.
  - ii. Four new people have approached Rob to be on the worship team. Three for Sunday morning and one for Quest.
- e. Jen Skjod –
  - i. Jen is working on the newsletter, which will be finished tomorrow.
  - ii. Doug and Jen met with Armour and the online registration function is working as of last Friday. The Dave Ramsey financial course is active now for online registration.

## 3. Financial and Administrative Report

- a. Treasurer's Report: Dallas gave the report. April collection was \$99,834.51, which is \$28,699 income over actual expenses for the month.

## 4. Administrative Report – Doug Leet

- a. Update on You Director Replacement: Seven applicants' resumes have been received to be evaluated. Doug, Barb, Aaron, Pastor Scott, and Stephanie Kuhn consist of the hiring committee. After Memorial Day the committee will meet and decide the interview schedule.
- b. Implementation of Time Reporting: Doug reported that the time reporting is not quite ready to implement yet, but he is working on it.

## 5. Old Business

- a. Approval of Minutes from the April 2015 Meeting: Approved by e-mail.
- b. Stage Expansion Update: Fundraising for the stage expansion is going forward. Rob and Tim Peske made a fundraising video to play at the worship services. Dallas reported that donations are currently \$8,190, with \$21,000 from 2014 carryover. The project needs an additional \$17,150 after the recent speaker upgrade, which is the current available amount with carryover from the Sanctuary Completion Fund. The staff was given permission by the Council to go ahead and schedule the remaining expansion items.
- c. Audit Committee Update – Don met with the audit committee earlier this month. The group would like to be re-titled from audit committee to finance committee with the following function to achieve the intent of the Charity Bylaws:

The Vision Council will approve the appointment of a finance committee with the charge of reviewing Charity's bookkeeping practice. Specifically the finance committee would have the responsibility to perform an examination of the accounting procedures and practices of the church and test a sampling of transactions to be assured that the accounting procedures are being properly followed and that generally the church has sufficient internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the tithes and offerings are properly accounted for and that disbursements and payments are properly processed.

Kent motioned to approve the updated function of the audit committee, Rob seconded, and approved by all.

## 6. New Business

- a. Summer Worship: Randy and Kent gave a report summarizing a recent meeting which was held with the 8 a.m. Traditions service attendees concerning the normal consolidation of the three Sunday morning worship services to two in the summer. Kent supplied notes from the meeting. There were ten people in attendance from the service who voiced reasons to keep the Traditions service functioning in the summer. Randy stated a few reasons why discontinuing the Traditions service in the summer should be considered: 1) the average attendance goes down across all services so consolidating services utilizes staff and other Church resources more efficiently and 2) staff workload changes in the summer, requiring more time spent for mission trips, wedding, etc. As a note, the average attendance at Traditions has been 30 people, with around 300 each for WOW, Shelter and Nova services. The Quest service has grown to around 50 people.  
Aaron motioned keep the plan for 3 Sunday services in the summer, Shelter, Nova and Quest, and discontinue Traditions until the fall, which was seconded by Kent, and approved by all.
- b. Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) Report: Kevin Kindel reported for the group on current progress. The options considered to address Charity growth were: 1) nothing, 2) add on to current Church structure, 3) a second campus, 4) a Church plant and 5) a new or used building at a new location. After a month of prayer the group was unanimous in a decision to pursue a new building and location. A few reasons for the decision were:
  - 1) Doing nothing is not an option considering the Church is at capacity due to growth.
  - 2) Adding on to the current Church location is possible, but if you assume that you're going to add 100 people each year for the next 5 years, even an expansion won't work for long. A new

location would last for 30 or more years vs. a short amount of time. Buying out houses around the current location would get another 3 acres maybe, while projections for long term growth require at least 10 acres.

3) Congregational meeting feedback showed that members do not want to split the Church into two campuses. Multiple campuses can be a challenge to staff the in 2 places, particularly for the youth programs.

4) A church plant model doesn't seem to work well to draw people away and reduce crowding, e.g. Surprise.

A realtor has been retained and an appraisal of the current Church is in progress. The committee has broken into subgroups with separate tasks including: 1) raising money for the Vision Fund (church growth fund), 2) completing existing Church appraisal, 3) addressing opportunities brought by the realtor and 4) designing the new facility.

The land and new facility is being initially estimated at \$8-10MM. Land offers typically require 3-5% down. 10 to 15 acre tracts are being considered at this point and will probably run \$3-5MM.

Kevin requested permission to start a Vision Fund capital campaign. Troy Bradley, Kathy Schneider, and Drew Milas have volunteered to be part of the capital campaign committee. Aaron motioned to let the LRPC start the campaign, Barb seconded, approved by all.

The Council discussed and decided that the LRPC should keep a few of the other options open including expanding on the current location until facts conclusively show that the current Church location won't work based on growth projection, land values and quantities needed, etc. There are currently 3 houses right around us that are available for sale.

- c. Bylaws Change – The audit committee will be reviewing what constitutes an “Audit” and “Order of Business” at the annual meeting. If there's any other recommendations for bylaws change let Don know so they can review them at the same time.

Pastor Randy ended the meeting in prayer at 7:30 p.m. Cheryl will bring food to the next meeting. The next meeting will be June 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Aaron Edland - Vision Council Secretary