

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of East Bethel
19001 Jackson Street NE
East Bethel, MN 55011
Draft Minutes of the Regular Congregation Council Meeting
Thursday, March 9, 2017, 6:30 p.m. at OSLC

Members Present: Jan Berqual, Ben Bjornson, Holle Despen, Terry Kolodjski, Mark Kramm, Pastor Dan Nordin, Pastor Maria Pederson, Michelle Reichow.

Members Excused: Jim Jerylo, Kathy Neuberger, Glenndy Ose, Karen Schrecongost, Connie Weigel.

Members Absent: none

Guests Present: Cindy Delmonico, Kim Fread, Tracey Dalve.

President Michelle Reichow called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Treats were provided by Jan Berqual.

Michelle Reichow led devotions.

New Business Item #3 (addressed first for convenience):

3. Safe Families for Children: Tracey Dalve shared her knowledge and experience working with a program called Safe Families for Children. This program seeks to support children and families in times of crisis. Their goal is to reach out with God's voice of hope to families in need. Tracey noted several ways the people of OSLC can support this ministry.

Secretary's Report: Ben Bjornson moved that the minutes of the February 9, 2016 Regular Congregation Council Meeting be approved as amended. The motion was seconded, and approved.

Council Agenda Review: Michelle Reichow reported that Council Orientation has been struck from the agenda.

Finance Report: Ben Bjornson distributed and explained the February 2017 Finance report. Ben also included an additional report that provides an overview of monthly cash flow. Ben noted that the auction earned additional money for the Reserve Fund; final numbers for the auction are being tallied. Kim Fread noted that members who increased their 2017 pledge and use Simply Giving must contact Kim to sign a form so she can legally change the Simply Giving amount to match the intended amount. Mark Kramm moved that we accept the Treasurer's Report. This motion was seconded, and approved.

Team Reports:

1. **Children's Ministry:** The Christian Ministry Task Force is a group tasked with posting and hiring a new Director of Children and Family Ministries to serve upon Brice's departure when he finishes seminary this summer. The task force is seeking input from families and volunteers to help determine the qualities needed to fill this position. Then a position description will be written by the Human Relations Team. Interviews will occur in June and July. It is hoped that the new Director of Children and Family Ministries will work with Brice for a week to ensure a smooth transition.
2. **Worship and Music:**
Pastor Maria shared that the Worship and Music Team and the pastoral staff are studying the best time for Sunday worship services for the upcoming programming year. They are gathering data about worship and Sunday School attendance and gathering opinions from many groups. They hope to have the decision made in time to announce service times in our May publications.

Jan Berqual noted that the theme of Wednesday services this Lenten season is God Walks with Us. Sunday services will follow the theme Were You There?. Times for the Holy Week services are available on the OSLC website. The theme for the weeks following Easter is What Keeps You Up at Night?.

3. **Church Property:** Pastor Maria updated council on Christine Dahlman's progress in planning the new garden that will provide produce for people in need, through such groups as the NACE Food Shelf and Jesus Refills. Fencing and irrigation are being planned, and the preschool kids will be involved with growing starter plants for the garden.
4. **Finance Team:** Ben Bjornson noted that the Mortgage to Mission program will end 11/30/2017. As such, the Finance Team will send letters to people with an outstanding balance so people will know where they stand on their pledge. Following the second quarter, statements also will be sent to members to inform them of their progress towards meeting their general pledge. Ben noted that Kim Anderson joined the Finance Team.
5. **Spring Fling:** Ben Bjornson reminded us that council will provide the food for the Spring Fling Thing as a fundraiser for Jesus Refills on May 21st.
6. **Adult Confirmation:** Pastor Dan is pleased to report that 14 adults are attending the adult confirmation class.
7. **Human Resources:** Michelle Reichow distributed the Personnel Policy Manual for approval by council. Council read and discussed the manual. Mark Kramm moved that we accept the Personnel Policy Manual as presented. This motion was seconded. After more discussion, Jan Berqual moved that we table this motion until the April council meeting so a few details can be worked out. The motion to table the discussion was seconded, and was approved.

Old Business:

- 1. Visioning Team:** Michelle Reichow noted that the Visioning Team has 3 members. Michelle and Mark Kramm are in the process of inviting 3 more members. It was determined that the visioning team begin their work in March even as they build to their full strength of six members.
- 2. Auction Report:** Ben Bjornson reported that the money earned from the auction will go into the Reserve Fund. The final tally of earnings will be completed soon. The Auction Team will meet soon to debrief and determine what went well, as well as discuss suggestions for the next auction. Thanks to the auction team for their hard work on behalf of Our Saviour's!
- 3. Team Assignments:** Michelle Reichow, along with the executive council, made liaison assignments based on council members' gifts and requests. Several assignments have not yet been finalized.
 - Children's Ministry-** Karen Schrecongost
 - Church Property/Senior Housing-** Terry Kolodjski
 - Confirmation-** Connie Weigel
 - Constitution-** Mark Kramm
 - Fellowship-**
 - Finance-** Ben Bjornson
 - Old Church /Cemetery /Columbarium-** Mark Kramm
 - Outreach (Global, Social, Local)-** Holle Despen
 - Preschool-**
 - Stewardship-** Michelle Reichow
 - Worship and Music:** Jan Berqual
 - Youth Ministry:** Jim Jerylo
- 4. Synod Assembly, May 5-6, Lord of Life Church in Ramsey:** Mark Kramm and Karen Schrecongost will both attend as voting members. There are still some positions available.
- 5. Columbarium Initial Phase:** Council is seeking a path forward toward getting the columbarium built. The Old Church /Cemetery Team will be meeting soon; Mark Kramm will report back to council after this meeting.
- 6. Building Team:** Pastor Dan noted that this is the final budget year for Mortgage to Mission. He wondered if we could use that Mortgage to Mission momentum, in conjunction with the fall stewardship campaign, to move OSLC to phase two in building onto our church. He would like to see a building team get started soon to work toward this. In discussion, it was noted that we also want to dovetail the ideas of the visioning team with the ideas of the building team so the new physical space would meet the needs of the OSLC vision.

Celebration Moments

New Business:

- 1. Mail Bag:** There was no mail to report.
- 2. Report on Sale of any Stock:** There were no sales of stocks to report.
- 3. Safe Families for Children:** See report earlier in these minutes.

Karen Schrecongost moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. The motion was seconded and approved.

Holle Despen, Secretary

Next regular council meeting: April 6, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

March Devotions: unfilled

March Treats: Cindy Delmonico and Kim Fread