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Agenda

Reference: Email from Debbie Pirkl dated 3/17/2014 20:02

1. Devotions - Justin (5 minutes)
2. Adopt minutes from February Council meeting (5 minutes)
3. Q & A on Committee Reports (5 minutes)
4. Old Business
 - a. Land Sale Update - Debbie (5 minutes)
 - b. The Bridge 4 week Review (10 minutes)
5. New Business:
 - a. Feedback on Wednesday Lenten Services (5 minutes)
 - b. Replacement Worship & Music Chair (10 minutes)
 - c. May Elections: (20 minutes)
 - Fellowship – Patrice K
 - Stewardship – Dean E
 - Youth – Dane & Darcy McK
 - Secretary – Andy R
 - Financial Secretary – Brent H
 - Vice President – Jessica D
 - President – Debbie P
6. Adjournment – Lord's Prayer

Attendees

									d=Devotions		19:15	19:15	19:15	18:00	18:00	18:00	18:00	
N			chair	% att	dev.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
						6/20/13	8/8/13	9/18/13	10/23/13	11/20/13	1/15/14	1/22/14	2/19/14	3/20/14	4/16/14	5/21/14	6/18/13	
1	Treasurer	Dave	Bergeson	x	100%	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
2	Finance	Mike	Bonk	x	67%	1	x	x		x				x	x	d		
3	Vice President	Jessica	Donahue	x	100%	1	x	d	x	x	x	x	x	x				
4	Stewardship	Dean	Eisfelder	x	78%	0	x		x	x	x	x	x					
5	Financial Secr	Brent	Harms	x	56%	0	x			x		x	x					
6	Finance	Beth	Hostager		22%	0					x	x						
7	Fellowship	Patrice	Katzenmaier	x	78%	1	x	x	d	x		x			x			
8	Missions	Patty	Longard	x	22%	0	x								x			
9	Youth and Family	Dane	McKenzie	x	22%	0	x								x			
10	Youth and Family	Darcy	McKenzie	x	67%	0	x	x	x		x	x						
11	Evangelism	Steve	Morganson	x	89%	1	x	x	x	d	x	x		x	x			
12	Pastor	Cassie	Nault	x	89%	2	x	x	x	d		d	x	x	x			
13	Education	Tanisha	Pikula	x	78%	1	x	x	x	x	d	x		x				
14	President	Debbie	Pirkl	x	100%	1	x	x	x	x	x	x		d	x			
15	Worship & Music	Lori	Ritt	x	0%													
16	Secretary	Andy	Ruff	x	67%	1	d	x	x	x					x			
17	Pastor	John	Snider	x	100%	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
18	Property & Maint	Justin	Woods	x	78%	0	x	x	x		x	x	x	x				
19	Property & Maint	Dan	Youness	x	22%	0			x	x								
20	Worship & Music	Chris	Youngren	x	56%	0			x	x	x				x			
	count	20	20	19		9	16	12	14	14	13	12	11	11	12	1	0	0

Meeting Notes

1. Meeting was called to order at 18:05 by president Debbie Pirkel.
2. Minutes of February meeting: M/S/C to approve as written.
3. Committee Comments
 - 3.1. Education committee is interested in getting some interns. Cassie says interns are available from Augsburg. They will take unpaid positions for the experience.
4. Old Business
 - 4.1. Land sale update. Debbie.
 - 4.1.1. Plat approval: Debbie signed on behalf of St. Stephens. WSP has approved. Builder is confident of final approval.
 - 4.1.2. We now expect the deal to close May 2014.
 - 4.1.3. Semi-related: The county will redo and widen Wentworth by about 20 feet in 2019. We will need to adapt our parking lot at that time. Should we allocate some of the sales proceeds towards this upcoming hit?
 - 4.2. Bridge update. Debbie asked for feedback from council on the new Saturday night service. It has been running 4 weeks now. Have you attended? Your impression? Any feedback from other congregants?
 - 4.2.1. General: it's tough to do new songs with just lyrics on the screen. Seems to work with call and response format as done by Nate Haug at a contemporary service.
 - 4.2.2. Cassie: seminarians comment on the combination of praise format and standard service... strange combo. Is there a way to smooth this?
 - 4.2.3. Chris Youngren: Haven't been yet.
 - 4.2.4. Andy Ruff: Haven't been yet.
 - 4.2.5. Dane McKenzie: Haven't been. Sunday attendance seems down. Coincidence?
 - 4.2.6. Pastor John: Been to all 4. Attendance 60-80. We've added 3 services a week with 11:00 and 6:00 lentens and Saturday bridge. Spreads people out. Some attend both Saturday and Sunday.
 - 4.2.7. Lori Ritt: Been to 2. Doesn't seem a lot different from Sunday. Something is missing not sure what yet.
 - 4.2.8. Jessica Donahue: been to one. Went well. Spring break now... lots of people traveling. Impact on attendance?
 - 4.2.9. Steve Morganson: Been to one. Liked it. Feedback from 3 others: positive.
 - 4.2.10. Mike Bonk: been to 2. Impression: less family friendly.
 - 4.2.11. Patty Longard: Haven't been yet. No feedback.
 - 4.2.12. Dave Bergeson: Been to a couple. Music could be more upbeat.
 - 4.2.13. Patrice Katzenmaier: Really enjoyed it. Liked having Sunday morning free. Sat with Gieser's. They like this type of service a lot.

5. New business.
 - 5.1. Wednesday worship service. Misc comments:
 - 5.1.1. Many enjoyed it. One older kid sat with a table of younger boys and asked if they knew she had been a teacher. They guessed 20 years ago. Actual? 60. No offense taken.
 - 5.1.2. Need coordination with cleanup.
 - 5.1.3. Kids love it.
 - 5.1.4. Young readers are engaged by the screens and read along.
 - 5.2. Worship committee: Chris Youngren is moving to Colorado to be closer to her daughter. Chris is stepping down after 7 years as chair. Council thanks Chris for her devoted service and wish her well in CO! Lori Ritt has volunteered to fill out Chris' term. Lori previously held this position for 8 years. Thank you Lori for stepping up!
 - 5.3. May elections. Several positions are up for re-election. If your term is up, please let Debbie know your intentions ASAP (before April meeting) so nominations committee has time to find replacement candidates. Those up for election:
 - 5.3.1. Fellowship. Patrice did a partial by completing Kathy Canniff's term.
 - 5.3.2. Stewardship: Dean has completed 2 terms so far.
 - 5.3.3. Youth: Dane and Darcy McKenzie have done a partial completing Judy Rognli's term.
 - 5.3.4. Secretary: Andy did one 1 year term and is completing a 2 year term.
 - 5.3.5. Vice president and President: Debbie and Jessica are completing a 1 year term. We just adopted a constitutional change which provides for 2 year term for these positions and allows for 2 consecutive terms with elections in odd years. To synchronize with the new change, Debbie and Jessica are up for a election to a one year term. 2 year terms will start in 2015.
 - 5.3.6. Financial secretary: Brent was elected and then his position was changed by resolution to strategic planning leader. We will vote to continue this resolution.
 - 5.4. Missions: Patty Longard reviewed plans to expand our use of fair trade coffee. Missions has been selling their coffee. Next week missions will host a taste test. We intend to start using fair trade coffee on Sunday mornings after inventory of regular is used up. Pastor John: it's not just what you give; it's also where the money goes.
 - 5.5. Next meeting: Wednesday 4/16 at 18:00. Mike Bonk will do the devotion.
 - 5.6. Seminars: We've got 3 great ones! Debbie will invite Keith, Caitlin, and Mandy to one of our next Council meetings to help round out their experience.
6. Adjournment
 - 6.1. M/S/C to adjourn at 18:54
 - 6.2. We closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Ruff, Secretary

Committee Reports

Education

No update as of 3/20/2014 19:00.

Evangelism and Membership

Reference: Email from Steve Morganson dated 3/13/2014 11:02

1. We have two people certified for taping at Town Square. Tentative plan is to tape one service and the Memorial Day Concert before summer.
2. I have agreed to order Nelson Searcy's seminar on Assimilation of new members.
3. Connection Center Hosting schedule has been issued for March and April
4. Three welcome packs delivered this month.
5. We agreed to plow a pathway to the Jiffy Lube sign next year in the case of heavy snow.

Regards

Steve

Fellowship

Reference: Email from Patrice Katzenmaier dated 3/10/2014 20:49

Upcoming dates/events:

We are planning to serve the Wed. evening lenten dinner on April 2 @ 530pm. Set up will begin around 430.

April Fellowship has been covered. Donut holes and fruit will be served for Easter Sunday.

Fair Trade Coffee will be started soon. More to come from Missions about the transition.

Old Business:

Both the Baby Shower and the Mardi Gras were greatly enjoyed by our congregation. You all have contributed your time and talent to promote Christian fellowship. What a great job!

Action Item:

We are looking for volunteers to fill the dates for Sunday morning donuts/coffee. Any Committees that would be interested in helping, please sign-up. Fellowship is held between services. A new signup folder has been created and we have decided that the whole process could be shortened if just a few people do the donut pickup. We already have 3 volunteers-Sara, Anne and Patrice. We will do this upon request.

Diane Johnson is next in line to do the May signup for Fellowship.

Yours in Christ,

Patrice Katzenmaier, Chairperson

Anne Pfankuch, Diane Johnson, Lori Ritt, Kathy Canniff, Joanna Mead, & Sara Ruff

Finance

Reference Email from Mike Bonk dated 3/11/2014 18:08

The Finance Committee met on Thursday, March 6. Members present included Sue Clark, Mike Butala, Beth Hostager, Dave Bergeson and Mike Bonk. Also in attendance was Dean Eisfelder.

Following is a recap of the meeting:

February Financial Results

February revenue of \$36.6k was slightly more than plan. General envelope contributions were \$4k less than plan and offering plate contributions were \$4.7k more than plan. The committee speculated that a large plate offering of \$5k would have normally come in the general envelope giving last year. February expenses were \$5.4k over plan due to the timing of start up expenses for the new Saturday service. While all budget amounts have been determined we have not loaded the Strategic Worship amounts and the Missions budget breakdown yet.

Land Sale:

Mike Butala indicated the land sale is proceeding and the final plat was approved by the city council. Once the plat is recorded by the county the developer can seek city council approval. Mike expects the sale to be completed in May.

Lego Bridge:

The committee discussed how special contributions for the Lego Bridge Campaign would be reflected on a members statement. We will designate a line on the statement to isolate these contributions. The special line will not go against the members 2014 pledge.

2014 Finance Committee Priorities:

The Committee identified the following potential areas of focus for the coming year:
Given the funds that will be available from the land sale should we update our long range capital plan and define how the new capital improvement fund can be used.

The group wants to develop a better understanding of dedicated funds. Do restrictions exist for some balances? In addition do we need to keep the level of accounting detail we have for the funds?

Finalize internal control procedures. Significant work has been completed on financial procedures over the past couple years.

Investigate getting software or a third party service that would allow members to make contributions with automatic withdrawal or discretionary on-line payment.

Determine whether some level of accounting audit should be performed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Bonk

Missions

Reference: Email from Patty Longard dated 3/17/2014 20:04

Missions Committee Meeting 3/6/14 - Vicky Jackson, Cassie Nault, Patty Longard

Finances: Approved our budget, submitted to Finance Committee on 3/6.

Neighbors Capital Campaign: Would like to also put a cap on this, finalize the amount we will be sending. Will discuss final plans with Pastor John.

March Food Drive: We're off and running - just this weekend we collected 146 pounds of food and another \$90 in cash. We've got a ways to go, but people seem to be responding to the 'theme' weekends. Will also celebrate with an Ice cream social on May 4th only if we make the \$2000/pounds of food mark for the food drive (we have a ways to go).

Tanzania Trip: 5 planning to go to Tanzania this summer. We discussed plans for highlighting the trip during May Mission Sunday (May 4th). Would like the church to be able to produce some greeting for our sister church in Tanzania in the form of a letter, video, other things to prepare to take to the church.

Consider inviting the Swahili choir to join us again on Mission Sunday. Teach folding palm fronds into crosses at palm Sunday.

Fair Trade Coffee: Will have an introductory Adult Forum for our upcoming switch to Fair Trade Coffee on 3/23. Will work to educate the congregation about the value / increase cost of Fair Trade v/s Folgers. We discussed various campaign ideas such as selling "to-go-cups" or St Stephen's travel mugs / regular mugs that say "I support Fair Trade"

Sitraka youth Ken Nelson Tithes: There is a remaining \$5000 from the Ken Nelson Tithes that we earmarked for working directly with the youth to distribute. Will be working with Sitraka on this idea

Pots and Pans: Next collection to be April 6th

Respectfully Submitted
Patty Longard

Pastor's Report – John Snider

Reference: Email from Pastor John dated 3/15/14 11:41

1. **The Bridge.** Change is real. Much up in the air but it all seems good primarily because all the leaders are in a “learning as we go” stance. There is lots of feedback, which is good, and we are being responsive to it. The vision is getting clearer. We are getting to a place when we can generate more publicity. The numbers to date are: 77, 66, 50. The good thing about the numbers is there are faces we don't see on Sundays or very often. Also, those we do seem to be going to both services. It may be hard to really judge the Bridge since Wednesday Lenten worship is happening at the same time, that's a lot of church!
2. **Lenten Wednesdays.** I want to commend Pastor Cassie and Sitraka for their leadership. Again, change is real and they have brought some real changes. First by having worship at 6 p.m. That's early for some adults but really puts children first. Both Ash Wednesday and the first Wednesday service were highly attended. The first Wednesday service had some technical glitches but was spiritually close to perfect. We don't go to church we are the church. All ages were together. The goal of creating relationships was met. We'll see the reactions during the weeks ahead. Some people were really put off by the “non worship” nature of the experience. Certainly not what was expected. But I think a really important effort for the future of St. Stephen's. I'm curious how the leaders of St. Stephen's experienced it.
3. Jan and I are serving on a **Noreen Activity Center** task force which is working to get a higher accreditation level for the **After School Program**. We really are part of a great gift for our community youth. The leaders and their commitment are inspiring. Jan brings lots of creativity to the table in helping with space needs.
4. **New Logo.** With the help of Tom McGregor we are developing a new logo and color scheme for St. Stephen's. Tom did the new logo for Lutheran Mideast Development which is great. Nancy Lynn, TJ Pirkl, Jan Perkins and I are serving on the committee meeting with Tom. We'll keep you posted.
5. I have been really happy with the **connectedness** in our programs lately. (I hope our mission statement is starting to take root.) Whether it was during Marti Gras, the Men's Renewal Group, or Rooted in the Word, there seems to be a growing level of depth; perhaps it's just me, but it feels like church!
6. I am seriously considering going on the **Tanzania** trip this summer. I appreciate the willingness of St. Stephen's to help defer some of my costs. I have spent much personal money on the ministry trips to Turkey so it really helps make it possible. The trip will likely be the last few weeks of June into early July. There is much to work out if this happens, specifically in supporting Cassie during this time.
7. **Thanks to all our leaders** who find time for working in St. Stephen's ministries while being faithful ministers in the rest of their lives.

Pastor's Report – Cassie Nault

Reference: Email from Pastor Cassie dated 3/18/2014 18:23

My new schedule: I begin with this item, as many of you have asked about it; thank you for your concern. It has been challenging to keep up with all my work at St. Stephen's, as the workload hasn't decreased much; however, I am very much enjoying my extra time at home with Elijah and Oliver. I am out of the office and away from my email on Mondays and Fridays.

Lent: We've only just begun our Lenten routine, but I want to lift up the excellent leadership of those coordinating the meals: Jan Perkins and Chris Youngren at the luncheons and Jessica Donahue at the suppers. The meals really add to the community feel of this season and they wouldn't be possible without those leaders. **I was DELIGHTED** by worship attendance at 6pm last week: we had about 90 people in the sanctuary for opening prayer and music and then crowded around tables in the fellowship hall for directed conversation, prayer, and blessing. While it is worship—it includes an opening prayer, worship song, prayers of the people, and closing blessing; the overwhelming presence of children all sitting together and them not really understanding that we were in worship did tip the scales a bit. **If you do come to these worship services, I encourage you adults to sit close to the children and don't be afraid of gently helping them to pay attention to worship** (there was much giggling/conversation throughout our experience as we got used to something new).

The Bridge: This past Saturday was my first experience leading this worship service. There were about 70 in attendance. I enjoyed the worship; it certainly feels casual and good—however, judging from feedback and from my own experience on Saturday, I agree that we can do even more to set it apart from the Sunday morning services. I look forward to seeing how this service grows and changes in the months to come.

Peace,
Cassie

Property and Maintenance

Reference: No update as of 3/20/14 19:00

Stewardship

Reference: Email from Dean Eisfelder dated 3/19/2014 21:44

The April fund-raiser should be all set to go as planned. A letter and a special offering envelope will be mailed to all members during the last week of March informing them of our effort to bridge the budget gap. My grandchildren built a bridge using 300 LEGO blocks and I plan to use it to show the progress of the fund-raiser. It will be on display in the narthex during the month of April. I think everything is ready. I will be going out of town early Friday morning so I would like to be excused from the council meeting on Thursday. Thanks.

Worship and Music

Reference: No update as of 3/20/2014 19:00

Youth

Reference: Email from Darcy McKenzie dated 3/20/2014 14:36

Sitraka & myself have made attempts to meet on a weekly basis. As both of us are new to our responsibilities and tasks, our meetings have really been more about defining roles and determining what opportunities will be most impactful going forward. To follow is an outline of our targeted endeavors.

1) Wednesday Evening Coordinator

Due to the success of our Wednesday evening programs, it is apparent that we need a person to act as a coordinator. A “Go To” person that harmonizes all aspects from acting as host, identifying and assigning volunteer duties, accommodate faith formation leaders, and most importantly, coordinate communications. Side note – personally I get an average of 5 emails per week pertaining to Wed. nights: WILD/JOY, Confirmation, Meals, Mentoring, etc. The Wednesday night communications could and should be easily accommodated by one communication piece with ongoing web-site monitoring and updating.

2) 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering

Develop a “Detroit Team” consisting of the following: Leader (Sitraka), Teen Leader, Preparation Facilitator, Document Administrator, Finance Advisor, and Housing & Transportation Organizer

3) Fundraising

Determine the viability of all proposed fundraisers.

4) Internships

Two internship positions are being discussed: one for the aforementioned “Wednesday Evening Coordinator” and another for a “Youth Music Director”. We need to infuse music into our Wednesday evening programming with flow through into the weekend worships. Sitraka is interested in managing these positions.

Dane will be in attendance at tonight’s Council Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Darcy McKenzie

End of File.