

## Church Council Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2019

Present: Michael, Bob, Emily, Sonja, Jason, Wendy, Carol, Karen, MaryBeth, Pastor John, Pastor Bri

Absent: Julie, Troy

1. President Carol called meeting to order at 6:30pm
2. Jason lead devotions on the experiencing the joy in the moment. Jason acknowledge another gun violence mass shooting and feeling upset at the lack of changes by political leaders creating anxiety in everyone. Jason read Luke 10- story of Martha and Mary. Jason talked about living in the moment, be engaged with people around you, and avoid distractions.
3. Meeting minutes from July, 11, 2019, approved as written.
4. Financial update was given by President Carol. She reports the July giving was strong and faithful. The July newsletter gave a short summary. The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of July was a soft spot for giving ( expected lower giving). Ended July with approximately \$18,000 short expected total giving year to date. Expect to keep an eye on giving but overall- pleased with summer giving while Senior Pastor on sabbatical.
5. Pastor John's Report

Pastor John gave thanks and appreciation to the council and church for his sabbatical. He will share more of his travel and time in rest and relaxation over the next several months. He is pleased the financial giving was strong and steady while is was on sabbatical. He gave appreciation to Pastor Bri leading the church faithfully while he was gone.

Spent time in Palestine. Planning to return in June 2020 for "Art as Resistance" event gathering artist and theologians. Spent time in Washington DC- speaker. Hiked in Colorado and Idaho with family.

Staff planning for Fall schedules ( Exalt, Adult Ed) is on-going

Ken Edmonds is retired from leading Adult Education. Gratitude given to him for leading Sunday Adult Education

Pastor John will teach 5 weeks series at Adult Ed on Sunday morning

Pastor John will teach ExHALT 5 week series on Parables of Jesus

September 18- Pastor John will receive the Alumni of the Year Award at PLTS

Oct. 11- Joint meeting and meal with Roman Catholic brothers and sisters @ St. Marks in Tacoma. Book " Rapture Exposed" will be discussed with speaker Barbara Rosling Mars.

Stewardship meeting met Aug. 6 to discuss beginning a Capital Campaign to start winter 2020. The focus is reducing building mortgage debt AND to improve some campus projects.

## 6. Pastor Bri report

Youth attended Flathead in Montana. Serena Fink was a great chaperone. Messiah Lutheran also attended and it was a place to build relationships during family groups and small groups.

October 18-20 will be Women's Retreat off campus. Please RSVP to Pastor Bri as a minimum of 30 is needed.

Rock Ministry new mentors are in place. Volunteers are screened and need a new reference. She will need volunteers to call the references to verify.

Sept. 8- Gathering Day and backpack blessing

Education building has locks on doors and curtains in case of violence on the campus.

Affirmation of Faith Rite is being planned. A small mini-retreat will take place.

ExHALT will use the ELCA curriculum- Who is my neighbor?

Women's Bible Study is focused on Deuteronomy

## 7. Cell Phone Tower Update

**Michael, Jason, Phil met with Verizon Rep over the phone**

Presented a list of concerns, task force felt more listened to us, Verizon legal team is making our suggested corrections, \$4, 000 signing bonus

Verizon offered an alternative design with a bigger footprint ( 12 x 12 x 12) and higher tower- 80 feet- but covering at top to "hide" the top. We could add a cross as decoration. Pictures were shown to the council.

Verizon will need a public meeting to announce and get feedback from public.

Verizon would like lease by December 2019, with start of construction in April or May.

Lease would be 20 year with approximately Verizon investing \$500,000 in equipment. MVLC requests 5 year initial and 5 year renewal to protect MVLC. It will take Verizon 12 years to make a profit off tower.

Phil contacted our insurance carrier and mortgage lender to get advice about cell tower.

Once the council will need to bring to church members to inform them of purpose and design. Council is not yet ready to do so. We are waiting to get feedback from the Verizon lease before spending money (\$4,000-\$6,000) on an attorney to review the lease for us.

Booster for improved cell service will be brought to Jesie Holden by Pastor John as current campus has very poor cell service. Council still discussing improving cell service for the staff.

Cell tower fits with Mission and Ministry. The benefit to for a cell tower is improved cell service, cell tower will be put up somewhere close by- MVLC would be the beneficiary, and opportunity to focus financial funds ( \$1,200 rent each month) towards improving campus. Currently, the median age of church members is 66. We currently have 8 giving units donating \$177,000 and 23 giving units donating \$353,000.

#### 8. Friends in Faith

Council discussing various options for books. "Why Christian" by Douglas John Hall or "Why am I Joyfully Lutheran" by Matthew Harrison or Dorothy Day autobiography. Pastor John will preview and offer suggestions.

Sept. 11- 1<sup>st</sup> day of ExHALT will be a Friend in Faith topic. Pastor John will give an overview.

Church members voiced wanting the opportunity to serve the neighbor as Friends in Faith groups. A few groups have served Seeds of Change meals.

Members also request Large group format during the year as well.

9. Ice Cream Social Aug. 25

Carol and Sonja to lead. Please come and invite your friends. We will enjoy ice cream, dairy free alternative, and fellowship and yard games. Council agreed to host and financially support the Ice Cream Social.

10. Council Retreat is Saturday September 14. Executive team will set the agenda. The goal is to build relationships and possible re-examine the Mission and Vision statements. Bob will not be able to attend.

11. Stewardship Committee Report

Discussed Capital Campaign theme is yet to be determined. Expect to start at Advent.

Oct. 27- Reformation Sunday- lay homily focus on stewardship

Nov. 3- Giving Sunday with commitment cards

Discussed possible Benevolence Fair- would need lots of volunteers

Former Things New Things Campaign officially ends in February 2020.

Plans to develop a new Capital Campaign. The focus is reducing building mortgage debt AND to improve some campus projects. Target may be \$400,000 for debt and \$250,000 for various projects (yet to be determined). Some project ideas are: Columbarium, lighting in sanctuary, stained glass window, paint/stain to lighten the sanctuary, remove red carpet).

New campaign would require cottage meetings in February for information and encourage participation by church members. Council leadership will be asked to host dinners.

Pastor John will recruit a team and chairperson.

Currently we have reduced our loan by \$600,000, as we pay more than our minimum mortgage each month.

12. Phil reports the financial review is ½ way done. Expect finish by August. 27.

13. Executive team will meet August 13 @ 6:30

14. Wendy ended meeting with prayer at 8:08 pm.

Submitted by Sonja Dahl, Secretary