

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
June 23, 2019

Call to Order

President of the Governing Board, Scott Strachan, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Roughly 135 members were in attendance.

Opening Prayer

Senior Pastor Joe Meyer opened with a prayer.

2018 Annual Meeting Minutes

Wally Haase made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2018 congregational meeting. Don Franzen seconded. Motion passed.

Senior Pastor Joe Meyer's Presentation

- a. Pastor thanked the members for the privilege of working at Gloria Dei. He said that amazing things were happening here, one being the increased use of Bibles during the sermons. He also thanked the members for the giving that was occurring. We have over two months of operating expenses covered in our financial accounts.
- b. A change of worship times beginning in the fall was discussed. Each of the services would be backed up by one half hour which would affect the 8 AM service the most. The reason for doing this was to enable the 11 AM service to be completed before noon. This would also affect the Saturday evening service which would begin at 5 PM. Pastor Meyer has visited with several of the 8 AM worshipers about this and there seems to be an agreement that this would work for them.
- c. We may have an immediate opportunity to financially support a water purification project in the Dominican Republic via Compassion International. Our initial goal was to spread this over two years but a need has arisen so we may move the project timeline forward.
- d. Mike Martens has tentatively agreed (awaiting a contract) to be our paid leader for the Men's Ministry.
- e. Pastor Meyer discussed the renovation of the Family Life Center with a decision to be made at the next Annual Meeting in October. He went over the drawings that have been done so far. Some changes would be that the north wall would be pulled out as far as the sidewalk, an addition of family restrooms which would be ADA compliant, a kitchen remodel, storage for preschool toys which are used in this area during bad outside weather, an entrance upgrade, etc. The center wing has no fire sprinklers which would be added. The soonest that anything would begin would be late May or early June of 2020. This will all be more expensive than the sanctuary

upgrade and will probably require a loan but Pastor Meyer said that the congregation would not be strapped with an unworkable debt.

Executive Director Chris Thomson's Presentation

- a. Chris talked about the proposed fiscal year change. It is advantageous to have the church's fiscal year match its donors' fiscal year, which will enable pledges and contribution statements to align with the budget. Additionally, it is very difficult to build a budget in April/May, which includes the first half of the following calendar year, when benefit/vendor pricing changes aren't known until a later date. Having to guess at these changes can lead to a budget that is ultimately out of touch with reality.
- b. Giving is 4.1% ahead of budget, which continues to increase each year. We have seen no negative impact with the tax changes. Expenses are below budget. Chris also mentioned that the goal remains to have enough liquidity to cover 2-3 months of operating expenses. This promotes good stewardship while not making members feel like they are giving to a bank account.
- c. The Governing Board voted for a Facility overspend of \$50,000. As part of this overspend request, Communication Innovators will provide security cameras for DeAnn and Jenn's offices that will give a new measure of safety, two access points in the nursery which will provide needed Wi-Fi and allow a check-in point downstairs, as well as software updates for the existing wireless access points in the building.
- d. Additionally, the following items have been completed: east end drainage (\$20,000), center hallway south windows (\$7,400), and playground fencing has been removed with post holes being dug (\$3000). Exploration of the youth center roof needs to be done as soon as possible (\$4,000-\$7,000).
- e. A question was raised pertaining to the Stephen Ministry budget. This line item is in Pastor Tim's budget section. Fall plans were not yet in place when the budget was constructed so there was a concern regarding lack of funding. However, Chris mentioned two things: 1) Individual budget lines can be overspent. It is the overall budget sections that need to be kept in-line; 2) If there is a significant need for additional funds for Stephen Ministry, or any other ministry for that matter, an overspend request can be submitted to the Governing Board. Bottom line: We will fund our ministries.
- f. Pledges are 2/3 of the overall budget. Our budget needs to reflect what God is doing here. Pledges saw an increase of 5.2%. The back half of the year has the strongest giving.
- g. We will be switching from Mediacom to Unite Private Networks in early September. The upstream speed will be increasing fivefold and we will have our own dedicated network. Our livestream ministry will be a big beneficiary of this upgrade.

- h. A carpet cleaner was purchased for \$3,000, which will pay for itself inside of three years as we no longer outsource this task. It also increases our flexibility in deep cleaning when necessary.
- i. The General Capital Improvement line in the budget is a new line. (Projects that add lasting value to the facility/property).
- j. Another new account line is for IT outsourcing, which will be just over \$1,100/month.
- k. The Direct Mission support line has increased, as we seek to bless others in the way God is blessing us. Wages and benefit growth was just over 3% and slightly below the overall growth of the budget, as we continue to work to make it a slightly smaller part of the overall budget (still at 65%).
- l. After external delays last year, the security team is reconvening and will be working to create and implement new policies to keep the church and its members more secure.
- m. Wendell Dickey made a motion to accept the proposed budget for the second half of 2019. Faith Spark seconded. Motion passed.

Scott Strachan's Presentation

- a. Scott explained that the Governing Board's term would need to be extended till the end of 2019 with the terms then running from January through December after that to go along with the fiscal year changes.
- b. Dwight Carlson made a motion to have the current Board's term extend through December of 2019. Betty Meyn seconded. Motion passed.
- c. A question arose concerning the church's endowment fund. Scott said that a new board had been appointed and had not yet gotten to the funds. They do want to revitalize with the help of this board. They currently have \$90,000 in assets.

Closing Prayer

Pastor led the closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Adjournment

The Annual Congregation meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m. by Governing Board President Scott Strachan.

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Ebke.