

## Governing Board Minutes

March 24, 2020 – **APPROVED 4/21/2020**

Ruth Ebke lead with a devotion on trusting God, with a particular focus on the COVID-19 pandemic we are dealing with.

### **Call to Order**

Due to the pandemic, this meeting was conducted via video conference call. President Scott Strachan called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Board members Kurt Kromminga, Anne Sheeley, Jacque Thole, Brian Frantum, Martha Raecker, Greg Carstensen, Ruth Ebke, and Craig Grundmeier were present. Also on the call were Senior Pastor Joe Meyer and Executive Director Chris Thomson.

### **Consent Agenda and Minutes**

Ruth Ebke made a motion to approve the minutes. Brian Frantum seconded. The motion passed.

### **Reports**

Senior Pastor Joe Meyer's report:

- a. Pastor talked about how much time the staff is putting in, and how wonderful everyone is doing at adjusting to/assisting with the difficult situation we are in with this pandemic. Pastor Joe and Pastor Ben have been posting encouraging messages on Facebook and plan to continue to do so. Those messages have been very well received.
- b. There were almost 1,300 livestream log-ons this past weekend; 618 households were logged on for more than 30 minutes.
- c. We discussed the issues with livestream connection. We believe there are issues due to the large number of log-ons (our livestream partner's firewall treating the high traffic as hacking) and because of all of the households logged on to the internet in general. Our service provider is going to work on handling the website volume, and we are going to add additional broadcast times to help give people options to avoid general internet bandwidth issues.
- d. Pastor was very happy with our Compassion weekend. He believes 41 children were "adopted."
- e. Single Moms' Morning Out will unfortunately be cancelled this year. The Tiny Treasures consignment sale will be cancelled as well.
- f. Renovations continue and are on schedule. Depending on orders given from Governor Reynolds, the renovations could be slowed. On the other hand, if the Mt. Olive fundraiser is cancelled, we could give the green light for construction to more broadly begin earlier on the FLC, so we may end up being ahead of schedule on the renovations. We will just have to see what happens.

Executive Director Chris Thomson's report:

- a. Giving was good in February. Chris noted that while giving may be down because of the pandemic, expenses will also be down (with the church being closed/utilities not being used as much, etc.)
- b. We will pay the teachers of Tiny Treasures up to 4/7, and may look to offer daycare for the state if Urbandale schools don't open 4/13 (we don't believe the state would pay us anything for this). Greg and Scott brought up the idea of paying the teachers for the full amount of time, regardless of whether there is preschool or not. We will discuss this.

Martha Raecker discussed our financial situation. She stated she has confidence in our financial team and the financial systems in place.

#### **Current Discussion and/or Action Items**

- a. This was the first meeting for our new board member Jacque Thole. It was an odd way to welcome her (being that we couldn't do so in person), but we are glad to welcome her, nonetheless.
- b. Because of the pandemic, and all of the discussion we had about operations impacted by this, plus the challenges of discussing the policy manual changes over the phone, we decided to push that conversation off for another meeting.

#### **Housekeeping**

- a. Brian Frantum will have April devotional.
- b. The next Governing Board meeting will be April 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Adjournment**

The Governing Board meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

#### **Addendum**

After some discussion via e-mail, President Scott Strachan made a motion on April 2<sup>nd</sup> to fund the Tiny Treasures Preschool payroll from April 8<sup>th</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup> in an amount not to exceed \$23,000 using Gloria Dei Lutheran Church cash reserves. This action is due to a shortfall in tuition revenue caused by the current suspension and potential cancellation of the remaining school term in adherence to the State of Iowa COVID-19 guidance.

Brian Frantum seconded. The motion passed. (Voting was conducted via e-mail.)

Respectfully submitted by Craig Grundmeier