

Governing Board Minutes

April 21, 2020 – **APPROVED 5/20/2020**

Brian Frantum lead with a devotion – Prayer Isn't Just a Band-Aid.

Steve Kowbel was a special guest for this call, and he shared the phenomenal work being done to update our livestream capabilities. He shared the amazing growth of livestream, which we first rolled out in 2014. We were forced to rapidly improve our systems/capabilities in the last several weeks. Our staff and volunteers have done a fantastic job of working hard to help improve the performance and reliability of our services, and we also received some wonderful assistance from Lutheran Church of Hope. We are now not only experiencing fewer buffering issues, but our picture quality is fantastic. He also noted that we had 1,471 IP addresses log on for worship, with 983 total households that were logged on for 30 minutes or more.

Call to Order

Due to the pandemic, this meeting was conducted via video conference call. President Scott Strachan called the meeting to order at 6:33 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

Martha Raecker made a motion to approve the minutes. Ruth Ebke seconded. The motion passed.

Reports

Senior Pastor Joe Meyer's report:

- a. Pastor sees the staff excelling in dealing with the COVID-19 situation, finding many creative ways to make contact with/serve our congregation (and beyond).
- b. Pastor has been blown away by the Colossians Bible study response/viewership. As people are hungry for connecting with the Word in this way, he plans to find ways to continue to do this sort of study.
- c. Approximately 2,000 IP addresses logged on for Easter. On average, this would have been approximately the number of individuals we would have expected to have welcomed in our building. Assuming 2.5 persons viewers per IP address (which is the number we have used in the past), we are potentially reaching many more individuals right now than we typically would.
- d. When we are able to gather together again in person, Pastor plans on using a pre-packaged and sealed wafer/juice combination for communion (at least for the first two months). He will also be conducting a "fireside chat."

Executive Director Chris Thomson's report:

- a. We were \$23,000 below budgeted expenses in March.
- b. We were \$58,000 below budget in giving (down 30%).
- c. We have not been approved for the federal Paycheck Protection Program as of yet. Funds unfortunately ran out before we were able to be approved within the first round of funding, but there is a lot of hope that there will be a second round of funds coming. We would be able to use these funds for payroll, benefits, mortgage interest, and utilities.

Martha Raecker spoke to the tremendous effort put in by Chris and Alena, as they put together the necessary information for the Payroll Protection Program application. She noted that some ministry expenses are up, children's ministry and snow removal expenses are down. She feels good about our situation.

Current Discussion and/or Action Items

- a. Kurt Kromminga made a motion to accept Payroll Protection Program funds if available/approved. Greg Carstensen seconded. The motion passed (with Brian Frantum abstaining from voting).
- b. We began discussing the nominating committee for Board members.
- c. The COVID-19 pandemic has slowed our review of the bylaws, but we further discussed sections we will look at, and Scott asked us to look at them before the next meeting.

Housekeeping

- a. Craig Grundmeier will have May's devotional.
- b. The next Governing Board meeting will be May 19th.

Adjournment

The Governing Board meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Craig Grundmeier