

Governing Board Minutes

August 18, 2020 – **APPROVED 9/15/2020**

Scott Strachan lead with a devotion – he shared thoughts from a book called “The Carpenter.” Scott focused our thoughts on fear: Don’t let fear get in your way. Love God, love people, love life, and don’t let fear ruin your life.

Pastor Ben Johnson was a special guest. He is finishing the study he has been leading called “Grace Studies.” He will also be starting “Relationship Refresh” in September. Pastor Joe & Pastor Ben both spoke about not being concerned about the number of people physically coming to worship. They are both very encouraged by Bible Study numbers.

Call to Order

Due to the pandemic, this meeting was conducted via video conference call. President Scott Strachan called the meeting to order at 6:57 pm. Board members Kurt Kromminga, Martha Raecker, Anne Sheeley, Jacque Thole, Brian Frantum, 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

Greg Carstensen made a motion to approve the minutes. Ruth Ebke seconded. The motion passed.

Reports

Senior Pastor Joe Meyer’s report:

- a. Pastor noted that the renovations of the FLC/kitchen/bathrooms are going very well. They are ready to paint in the FLC and he is hopeful the project may be completed as soon as mid-October.
- b. Understanding that Steve Kowbel is well-loved, and that he will be missed, Pastor is very excited for the staffing changes coming from his departure. James Thompson and Carly Hansen will see their roles adjusted/hours and responsibilities increased, and Brenden Pugh returns after a stint at Lutheran Church of Hope. Brenden will be full-time. All are enormously talented and are making a difference already. Pastor highlighted the fact that Steve leaves a wonderful legacy of strong leadership and partnership in the areas of worship and tech/video, and he’s excited for the future.
- c. Pastor was very pleased with the congregations generous giving toward the Single Mom’s Morning Out gift cards. Each mom will receive a \$100 gift card (the congregation gave \$7,600).

Executive Director Chris Thomson’s report:

- a. July giving was down, but our liquidity situation is actually better than a year ago.

- b. Hawkeye Roofing noticed the center wing's roof membrane needs repair. We will get estimates and look to make the repairs next year.
- c. We are in good shape to have the payment protection program loan forgiven. Alena and Chris have worked hard to make sure all the documentation is in good shape. The government still seems to be working out some of the details of the program; however, so we are not rushing to submit the paperwork.

Treasurers Report:

Martha is encouraged by the financial giving, level of engagement, and the church's overall financial position. She appreciates the fiscal responsibility/cost controls everyone is engaging in.

Attendance:

- a. A higher percentage of online viewers are staying on more than 30 minutes.
- b. We've reduced the number of livestream services to one on Saturday and five on Sunday. We wanted to make it very easy for people to access the livestream earlier on in the pandemic (especially when we were having connectivity issues), but viewership was very small for the eliminated time slots, and there is a cost for each livestream.

Current Discussion and/or Action Items

- a. We will discuss the policy manual changes and vote on those next month. Two groups have completed their reviews. Scott will send those out this month.
- b. The Nominating Committee has six names for governing board openings. They will meet tomorrow, and Scott assumes they will make their decision then.
- c. The Foundation is seeking a potential reset. Scott is going to reach out to the individual members to gauge their interest and discuss how they might want to move forward.

Housekeeping

- a. Martha Raecker will give the September devotional
- b. The next Governing Board meeting will be September 15th.

Adjournment

The Governing Board meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Craig Grundmeier