

Governing Board Minutes

November 17, 2020 – **APPROVED 1/19/21**

Jacque Thole lead with a devotion – she shared pieces of a sermon from Pastor Mike Van Rees with The Ridge church. Jacque pointed to times within The Bible where people of different viewpoints were called to come together and look beyond political or worldly beliefs and to trust and follow God. She encouraged us to pray for our leaders whether we are excited about them being in leadership or not.

Call to Order

Due to the pandemic, this meeting was conducted via video conference call. President Scott Strachan called the meeting to order at 6:41 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

Martha Raecker made a motion to approve the minutes. Brian Frantum seconded. The motion passed.

Reports

Senior Pastor Joe Meyer's report:

- a. Pastor stated he was very happy with how the balloting was handled for the congregational meeting and believes this may be a model for the future, as we may have better engagement/participation.
- b. The Family Life Center construction is mostly completed. The remaining things are very minor. There is an issue with the walnut veneer above the stage and a few other items. We will be placing a cross on the back wall. Pastor is working with an artist on the design, and one of our families is looking to donate the money for this as a memorial. Steve Kowbel will be spinning a piece of pottery for the baptismal font bowl.
- c. Pastor is excited to be doing the giving tree again – “Mama Kits” and “The Shoes that Grow.” He was also very thankful for the donations of coats and mittens to Moulton Elementary. The school stated the children now have what they need for the entire year.
- d. Pastor noted that he received very little negative feedback about the mask mandate. He didn't take the mandate lightly, but while he appreciates the governor's efforts to grant us freedom to not mandate masks, he didn't feel right about separating ourselves from other non-religious organizations.

Executive Director Chris Thomson's report:

- a. We had a very good October giving-wise. It was the best giving month we've experienced since December 2018. We had a net-income of over \$30,000, and our net income for this

- year is now almost identical to last year. We are in as good of a financial position as we could hope for.
- b. Tiny Treasures will be closed the week after Thanksgiving, and tuition will be pro-rated at 80% of the normal rate.
 - c. The construction project came in on-time and on-budget, and Chris is very thankful to God for that.
 - d. Alena and Chris are working on finalizing the Payroll Protection Program submission (to have the loan forgiven). It's a lot of work, but he should hopefully get the paperwork submitted next week.
 - e. The volume of pledges received and total dollar amount for the coming year were lower, but the average pledge was 3.3% higher. Chris is not concerned about the lower volume of pledges.

Treasurers Report:

Martha reiterated that giving is very strong, which is encouraging. Liquidity is strong as well. We have over 3 months of expenses in reserves.

Current Discussion and/or Action Items

- a. We discussed the Foundation. We received feedback from the Foundation team as to the struggles they are having.
- b. We decided to put off policy manual discussions until January, as we spent significant time discussing the Foundation.

Housekeeping

- a. We signed up for devotion assignments for 2021. Ruth Ebke will give the January devotion.
 - a. The rest of the year will be:
 - i. February – Kurt Kromminga
 - ii. March – Brian Frantum
 - iii. April – Greg Carstensen
 - iv. May – Martha Raecker
 - v. June – Craig Grundmeier
 - vi. August – Scott Strachan
 - vii. September – Jacque Thole
 - viii. October – Jessie James
 - ix. November – Chris Thomson
 - b. The next Governing Board meeting will be January 19th.

Adjournment

The Governing Board meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Craig Grundmeier