

Governing Board Minutes

January 19, 2021 – **APPROVED 2/16/21**

Ruth Ebke led with a devotion from a daily blog from Rick Warren pertaining to “who controls your future.” It was centered around Romans 8:28, which states, ‘And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.’ One of the great fears in our life is of the future. It’s natural to fear, but we must remember that we are not in control. God is! He created the whole universe, could change things in an instant and He will always work in our lives for a purpose. God does not say that what we will experience will always be good, but he does not cause the hardships. He gives us the freedom to choose, but evil is a result of that. Romans 8:28 isn’t a promise for everyone, just a promise for those who love God. Despite all the problems in the world, God is still in control and he will put the broken pieces of our lives together. One day, He will work things out for his purpose, including the good, the bad and the ugly of our lives.

Call to Order

Due to the pandemic, this meeting was conducted via video conference call. President Kurt Kromminga called the meeting to order at 6:41pm. Board members Brian Frantum, Jessie James, Craig Grundmeier, Martha Raecker, Ruth Ebke, Scott Strachan and Jacque Thole were present. Also on the call were Senior Pastor Joe Meyer and Executive Director Chris Thomson. Greg Carstensen was not in attendance.

Consent Agenda and Minutes

Scott Strachan made a motion to approve the minutes. Ruth Ebke seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Welcome to the New Board Members: Jessie James was welcomed by the Governing Board. Each board member introduced themselves.

Reports

Senior Pastor Joe Meyer’s report:

1. Pastor Joe gave an annual reminder of the confidentiality of the board meetings.
2. He addressed the 2-3 Year discipleship strategy, indicating he should have this completed by May/June. This will need approval from the Board and will be put into the Annual Report.
3. Lead GDLC will be starting this Thursday (January 22nd), with Jacque and Jessie. Anyone on the board is welcome to join. This should last 4-5 weeks to cover the material.
4. Pastor Joe is considering a new Vision Frame. The current one has been in existence since before he was here. Kurt, Craig and Pastor Joe can talk about this in the fall to provide a refreshed vision frame for the church.
5. A board member inquired about the proposed sound booth. Pastor Joe has had initial conversations with Brenden and Carly. A sound proof recording studio would allow consistent space for podcasts and video recordings, decreasing the time needed from production staff. In order to limit current expenses, this is a project for the future, likely needing the assistance from donors to help cover the cost.
6. Another board member asked about Pastor Joe’s thoughts on the return of members for in person attendance and the challenges of 2021. Pastor Joe feels that they will return once the fear of Covid has decreased. Pastor Joe is confident God will help the church to grow back to pre-Covid levels and is reassured by the giving of the church as an indicator of the congregation’s investment and engagement.

Executive Director Chris Thomson's report:

1. December was continuing the soft trend of November, but end of year giving kicked in. The last two weeks put us ahead of budgeted giving for the month and quarter. It sets us up for solid liquidity for 2021, which we know we will need due to the debt that has been added from the remodel.
2. Infectious Disease policy was updated again to assist with protocols for Covid-19 testing and possible exposures.
3. Roofing work to the West FLC will be done this week. Greg has been working to prepare the space. The roofing company that assisted with the renovation identified some problem areas. The center wing roof will need to be done next year.

Treasurer's Report:

Martha gave her report and wanted to call to attention the offering comparison. It is \$19,000 less than 2019. However, with expenses limited, the staff has taken good care of the budget. Giving is down but she remains optimistic.

Current Discussion and/or Action Items

1. Synodical Convention
 - a. Joe gave an overview of the Synodical Convention. Each of the 36 districts in LCMS typically meet in the in the year before the Synodical Convention in order to elect officers that will go to the convention. Due to Covid-19, IDW may not be able to meet in June. They are recommending that each congregation vote to either delay the Synodical Convention or leave it as is.
 - b. Due to uncertainty related to Covid, Kurt offered a motion to gain permission to delay the Synodical Convention. Brian Frantum made the motion and Martha Raecker seconded the motion. The motion carried. Pastor Joe will get the information needed to Craig.
2. Policy Manual Updates
 - a. Various policy manual updates were discussed and reworded or struck as needed. The policy manual will be updated with these changes and voted upon by the board.
3. GDLC Foundation – Discussion regarding the Foundation was tabled for this meeting and will be addressed during the February meeting.

Housekeeping

1. The next Governing Board meeting will be February 16th. Kurt will provide the devotion. Pastor Joe is requesting to start the meeting at 6 pm. Kurt will send an email regarding the comfort level of board members to meet in person or continue meeting via video conference call.

Adjournment

The Governing Board meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Jacque Thole