

GDLC Board Meeting Minutes 4.20.21

APPROVED – 5/18/2021

Greg Carstensen led the devotion offering words of encouragement. He referenced John 14:16 where it states, “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever” and reminded us to allow the Holy Spirit to work through us. Also, in his men’s BSF group, he stated that God is with you, free of default, He’s unchanging and He is good. If we look back on our personal lives, we have to maintain hope and confidence that God is good and his plans are true. We should find rest in that, despite everything around us that indicates otherwise.

Call to Order

Due to the pandemic, this meeting was conducted via video conference call. President Kurt Kromminga called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm. Board members Jessie James, Craig Grundmeier, Martha Raecker, Ruth Ebke, Scott Strachan, Greg Carstensen and Jacque Thole were present. Brian Frantum was not in attendance. 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. Greg Carstensen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Reports

Senior Pastor Joe Meyer’s report:

1. Next month Joe will provide the triennial discipleship strategy. Then the Board will discuss/approve at the June meeting and will be delivered to the congregation in September.
2. Construction updates
 - a. Received an estimate for the curbs. It came in at ~\$200,000 – not planning to do at this time.
 - b. There is potential to partially complete this project, including the entrances into the sanctuary and handicapped parking areas as some have tripping hazards. Estimated cost of ~\$42,000, but a lot depends on how things go over the next few months.
 - c. Greg got an estimate for asphalt curbing –\$82,000.
3. Strategy – Pastor Ben and Pastor Joe have completed this, including the sermon series, through June 2022. This will be included in the annual report.
4. Staff evals are happening in May. They were not done last year due to Covid.
5. Pastor Joe and Chris discussed easing Covid protocols. The Bibles and connection cards will be back out. His hope is by the end of May it will be more relaxed but this depends on infection rates, vaccination rates. Attendance was over 500 this past weekend.
6. Vision Frame team has been working and Pastor Joe is looking forward to the finished product.

Executive Director Chris Thomson’s report:

1. Registration – Less than 320 were registered (~60% were registered) this past weekend. There were about 160 people at 9am sanctuary service. Discussion about allowing members to socially distance themselves, possibly without pews being blocked off.
 - a. The nursery and other childcare – with Covid and the variants, we are uncertain when this may be reintroduced.
2. Financial takeaway: Net income (not having anything to do with income from building pledges, building costs) through March was only under budget of \$269 in the 1st quarter
3. Expenses are trending below budget.
4. Still running below normal ministry levels. Currently no nursery expenses.
5. Cash flow on our current mortgages – it is costing us about \$12,000 each month. As we go through the year, we hope to accrue some money to fund our principal payments.

Financials report (Martha): Giving was up \$45k which was 32% over last March. Total income was up \$34,000 from last year. Expenses were under budget by 4.5%. Net income with capital campaign funds was up 157% from March 2020. Looks like we are moving in the right direction and encouraging. Chris noted that last year we had architectural fees from 2020.

Current Discussion and/or Action Items

1. Worship overspend request
 - a. Brenden has been working on this with Pastor Joe. He is borrowing a lens/camera from Lutheran Church of Hope to use at GDLC to make sure that he will order the proper equipment.
 - b. Livestreaming is here to stay and post-Covid will be a major part of our ministry. Our team currently takes the cameras from the sanctuary/FLC when they need to livestream in either area. This gets cameras in both locations.
 - c. Recently, a large donation was received (\$14k) and they are likely willing to donate the money to the overspend.
 - d. Even though we are asking for the overspend request, it does not mean that the money will necessarily be spent.
 - e. Scott Strachan made a motion to accept the worship overspend request. Jessie James seconded it. Approval will be no more than what is listed in the budget request (\$16,000). The motion passed.
2. Foundation Board
 - a. Three people from the Governing Board are part of the Foundation Board. Previously, Scott, Greg and Jen (former member) were involved. Kurt is asking for volunteers. Kurt is also offering to be a volunteer but is needing two additional volunteers.
 - b. Scott provided insight, indicating that the Foundation Board needs to determine frequency of meetings. The Board members are involved in the discussions and the business of the meetings. It is an advisory position and voting position. If they wanted guidance from the Governing Board, questions would be brought back to the board. A one-year term is requested.
 - c. Jim Schroeder has been contacted. Kurt, Chris and Jim plan to schedule a meeting, plan to identify the 3 GB volunteers and then encourage the Foundation to start moving forward.

3. Policy Manual Appendix – It is out of date. Chris found a more recent document of the questioned appendices and will send those out for review with the plan of updating the appendix section.
4. Pastor Review - Kurt will be sending an email to the senior staff asking for feedback regarding strengths, areas for improvement and other comments.

Housekeeping

1. The next Governing Board meeting will be May 18th at 6pm, in person. Martha will provide the devotion.

Adjournment

The Governing Board meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Jacque Thole