

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
Waconia, Minnesota
 Church Council Meeting Minutes
 Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 6:30 pm

Mission: To learn, serve and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Vision: To be a dynamic, energized worshipping community where all are growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ, one another and those beyond our walls.

Inclusive Grace. Contagious Love.

Council Members	Role	Present	Absent
Richard Scott	President	X	
Patrick Butler	Vice President	X	
Mary Fahrenkamp	Treasurer		X
Jessica Hartmann	Secretary	X	
Rob Dansare	Building & Maintenance		X
Kristin Johnson	Worship & Music	X	
Jim Karstens	Stewardship	X	
Quentin Knaak	Social Outreach	X	
Aaron Kopel	IT & Communications	X	
Sue Monson-White	Connections		X
Sarah Wilson	Faith Formation	X	
Dale Peterson	Sr. Pastor	X	
Katie Escalante	Associate Pastor	X	

The meeting was called to order by Richard Scott at 6:34 p.m.

- **Opening Devotions-** Aaron Kopel
- **Reading of Faith’s Mission & Vision Statement-** Aaron Kopel
- **Get to Know the Staff-** Brooke Struck, Communications Team
 - Brooke discussed her involvement with social media, website, service PowerPoints and the recorded and livestreamed worship services.

Get to Know the Ministries- Sue Monson-White, Connections

- Sue was not present, so Pastor Katie provided an update.
- There seems to be some “virtual fatigue” which makes it harder to plan online

- events, so the Connections team has been focusing instead on projects such as assembling Covid Care Kits for members who are quarantined.
- October 4th will be the Fall Festival – Covid style. This will most likely be a drive through event.

Standing Monthly Reports

- **Pastors' Reports**

- Pastor Katie Escalante
 - Outdoor worship in August went very well. The Wednesday evening worship services were a good trial run before holding Rally Day.
 - Rally Day also went well – good attendance and people were very good about wearing masks, distancing, etc.
 - Plans are under way to move back to Sunday worship for the fall and to move indoors once the weather is no longer conducive to outdoor gatherings.
 - She spent a lot of time this last fall contacting small groups and preparing the programs guide.
 - The staff has also been working hard on developing the Faith Formation vision for the fall.
 - The Car-naval went really well.
 - The next upcoming event is the Common Hope 5K next weekend.
- Pastor Dale Peterson
 - There have been some return to ceremonies such as small private baptisms, and there are several outdoor weddings coming up.
 - Worshiping outdoors has gone well.
 - There is great energy and ideas coming from the staff.
 - Rally Day went very well and he expressed gratitude to Jenn Bostic for making the trip to be part of the services.
 - Some families have been experiencing tough losses with deaths in the family and they are made even more difficult due to restrictions on gatherings and services.
 - There's been a slight hold-up on getting the livestreaming equipment set up due to a medical situation in the tech contact person's family.

- **Secretary's Report – May Council Minutes**

- Patrick made a motion to approve the August Council Minutes as submitted. Aaron seconded. Motion approved.

- **Treasurer's Report- Mary Fahrenkamp**

- Richard provided a financial overview in Mary's absence.
- Year-to-date - Net Operating Income is unfavorable (9K). Revenue is unfavorable to budget (58K) and expenses are favorable to budget 73K.

- Month-to-date (August) - Net Operating Income is unfavorable (13K). Revenue is unfavorable to budget (44K) and expenses are favorable to budget 14K.
- Jim commented that the deficits in giving are not alarming given the circumstances.
- Kristin suggested that a current financial update be given to the full congregation since several members have asked her privately how the church is doing financially due to COVID. Richard will reach out to Mary to discuss an update in in upcoming newsletter.
- Aaron made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Jim seconded. All approved and motion carried.

- **New Business & Key Topic Discussion**

- **Project Updates/Wish List**

- Patrick provided an update on the proposed Soundbooth update related to the addition of livestreaming equipment.
 - The current booth can accommodate the extra equipment, but it will be a snug fit to add another person in that area to run the equipment. There was discussion on the safety of this arrangement.
 - It is not feasible to simply extend the parameters of the sound booth since the booth itself is elevated on a cement riser.
 - Discussions will continue about safe options for staffing the booth.
- Richard provided an update on a request for a second set of plexiglass shields for the worship space to be utilized by potential musical performers.
 - The Executive Team had provisionally approved this request due to the urgency of getting the shields built.
 - Patrick made a motion to confirm the purchase of the materials needed to complete the project. Kristin seconded. Motion carried.
- Aaron noted that a new computer was purchased for Pastor Katie. There had been a misunderstanding that the computer was in the IT budget, but it was not. Richard made a motion to approve the purchase utilizing Wish List funds. Patrick seconded. Motion carried.

- **Rally Day**

- As noted previously, the members were very good about following the Covid requirements for participating in an in-person service.
- There were good attendance numbers at every service.
- The 8:30 a.m. service was the first livestreamed service and it went very well.

- **COVID19 Response Planning**

- The team has been making adjustments to the guidelines about how the church would move back and forth between phases should the cases locally spike.
 - There has been lots of measuring of church spaces and planning for appropriate distancing and other protocols.
- **Transition Team & Call Committee Update**
 - There is no new update at this time. It has been challenging to get a call scheduled with fall activities and school starting.
- **Ministry Updates**
 - Kristin – Worship & Music – The group recently met. The plan is to keep worshipping outside as long as possible with the first service to be held in the Sanctuary and the second in Steiner Hall. There will also be a smaller version of the Prime Time band. They are still having conversations about details such as ushering, communion, seating, etc.
 - Rob - Building – Rob was not present, but Patrick provided a brief update. The group has been meeting regularly. They are looking to get a plowing bid for the winder. They still need to organize the fall clean up.
 - Jim – Stewardship – Powered by Faith met recently and they are planning for the third year of the three year campaign. They are thinking about utilizing video presentations. We have now had 27 weeks of online services and we are running \$69,000 (14%) behind last year at this time.
 - Quintin – Social outreach – The food shelf is seeing staffing turnover with Marty Kramer retiring after 17 years of service She will be highlighted in an upcoming edition of the newsletter.
 - Aaron – IT – The first livestream went well considering that we don't have the new equipment in place yet.
 - Sue – Connections – Update noted above.
 - Sarah – Faith Formation – Fall Faith Formation activities are getting up and running with teacher/guide training and parent/child orientations for Spark, BYG, and Ignite underway.
- Closing Prayer- Aaron Kopel

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted – Jessica Hartmann, Secretary