



BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 6, 2021

5:30 pm – via Zoom

Attendance

Board Members: Donna Blaul, Chad Caswell, Camilla Fischer (absent), Mike Heidemann, Diane Horsager, Jay Olstad, Erin Persons, Barb Peterson, Josh Tuchscherer

Staff: Jeff Marian, Jane Victorey, Julie Klein

Call to Order

Mike called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm and Barb led the board in devotions.

Agenda

Motion by Josh to approve the agenda with flexibility. Second by Donna. Motion passed.

Approval of March 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Barb to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2021 meeting. Second by Josh. Motion passed.

New Business

- **Review Draft Budget – Jane**

Jane provided the Board with the first draft of the 2021-22 budget. The final budget will be presented at the May Board meeting for recommendation of approval to the congregation at the annual congregational meeting in June.

- **Other**

The Board entered closed session at 5:40pm and resumed regular session at 6:00pm.

Motion by Josh to block Mr. Richard/Rick Johnson from all electronic forms of communication with Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Board of Directors in response to repeated harassment from Mr. Johnson and requests by the board to cease and desist, and to empower all staff and representatives of Prince of Peace to do the same, if so desired. Second by Chad. Motion passed.

Reports

- **Lead Pastor Report – Jeff**

March was a month of transition, with lots of planning and conversation around safely and sanely reengaging in on campus worship. Our staff team did a fabulous job of anticipating challenges and mitigating risk, and the transition has gone quite smoothly. Attendance has been steady at about 200 each weekend with about 800 attending Easter services.

The PoP for Justice Team, along with the Worship Planning Team did a remarkable job with a controversial topic. Jeff was especially moved by the recorded performances with Robbie Robertson and our choir. To date over 100 people have joined the PoP for Justice Facebook group and Jeff has heard some very positive comments from people who have engaged in small group study together.

Our Church 2.0 research with those who are “spiritual but not religious” reveals that one of the reasons that many are uninterested in church is their perception that churches don’t care about social issues, including environmental stewardship, LGBTQ inclusivity and racial justice. This leads Jeff to wonder if a “middle of the road” strategy is viable any longer if we are going to engage with the growing population of people who are looking for relevant spiritual leadership. This is a branding issue and a church growth issue. But for our staff leadership it is also an issue of faithfulness. Jeff is not suggesting that we embrace controversy for controversies

sake, but that it does raise questions about our identity and direction as a congregation. What stakes are we willing to put in the ground?

Jeff is planning for a trip to Scotland and Ireland to trace the history of Celtic Christianity in April 2022. This trip will again be in partnership with Peace Lutheran Church in Ohio and there are 44 available spots.

- **Finance Director Report – Jane**

February offerings are better than budget by \$25,000 and March offerings were up significantly with nearly everything posted for the month. IRA giving increased in both February and March as people made contributions for both the capital campaign and offerings at the same time. Offerings will still be \$265,000+ short year to date through March, but the remaining months have lower budget projections for offerings over the prior year - with room for more catch up.

Pledges for the Get It dONE capital campaign are trickling in, and people are encouraged to make their pledge by April 19. A follow up mailing is scheduled for April 6 for those who have not made a commitment. Pledges to date are \$3,380,295 from 515 families.

Jeff and Jane continue to discuss the county COVID numbers and trends and are also watching vaccination rates in Dakota and surrounding counties. While we have returned to onsite worship and Student Ministry, we have not opened to any other groups, except for AA. Vaccination rates are at about 60% for a complete series for those in the 65+ age group but are at less than 25% receiving a complete series for those over 50. At this time local COVID cases are trending upwards, and more concerning is that the B.1.1.7 variant is now the dominate strain in Minnesota. We are not ready to recommend opening any further to other groups. We have begun discussion on what groups would be back first when we are ready to open further. We continue to watch the 14-day caseload for COVID-19 in Dakota County, which is at 32.19 as of the April 1 report, back up to the level we were at the end of January.

Jane notified the Board we have an option to carry Terrorism Insurance as part of our general insurance coverage. Each year we have chosen not to carry this coverage, and there was consensus from the Board that we waive this coverage.

- **Construction Update – Jane**

Framing work is complete and drywall work is well underway for the new Mission Outpost, Dental Clinic, and Child Care areas on the lower level. Excavation work is in process and footings are in for the new addition on the west side of the building. This 5500 square foot addition will provide needed storage and receiving space for Mission Outpost, a loading dock, refrigeration and freezer space, and storage for furniture ministry and facilities. This space is still on track for a mid-October completion. Drywall is complete in the new Chapel and painting will begin soon. We have experienced a delay in shipment of the wood acoustical ceiling for the Chapel which may push back our completion date by 8-10 weeks. The new completion date will likely be early to mid-August. We have not experienced delays in any other building materials.

Motion by Josh to receive and file the written reports for March and April submitted by Jane Victorey, Finance Director and Jeff Marian, Lead Pastor. Second by Jay. Motion passed.

Adjournment

Mike adjourned the meeting at 7:00pm and Erin closed the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Klein
Recording Secretary

Erin Persons
Secretary