

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL  
BOARD OF SERVANT LEADERS

September 11, 2017

Meeting Minutes

**In Attendance:** Dave Aliff, Kim Bell, Jane Cunningham, Bill Evans, Scott Gingerich, John Hutzell, Pastor Long, Chad Muntz, Jane Osborne

**Excused Absence:** Corie Scopp

**Devotion/Opening Prayer:** The President opened the meeting with a prayer for the people impacted by the storms and those in the church, especially those with special prayer needs.

**Pastor's Report** – Pastor scheduled a meeting on Sept 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 to discuss how the Youth Director position should be used; Chad will attend.

Pastor suggested a single service Sunday on 29 Oct in the Family Life Center to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. The service will be scheduled for 10:00 am.

**Financial Review** – Bill Evans provided a consolidated narrative of the financial condition of Grace Lutheran Church and School. The School exceeded financial projections by \$8,000, and there is a good synergy between the school and its programs. Church offerings have recently been lower than average. Non-compensation expenses are on target, however compensation expenses are higher than projected. This factors in payroll to support the new classroom. Salary not currently being paid for the vacant Youth Director position is helping our financial position with regard to compensation expenses.

We have paid \$2,000 of the \$32,000 pledged to outside ministries; we are able to pay towards this retroactively. The target for this item is 10% of the tithe and includes school scholarships.

**Rebate Blessing** – The rebate blessing from our mortgage was \$9,539.03 this year. A suggestion was made to use it to establish it as a reserve fund to supplement our line of credit, or perhaps to go towards the payment of a portion of our mission pledge. Pastor reminded the board of the \$50,000 endowment that is available for

church needs. Another suggestion was made to apply the rebate funds, together with the endowment, toward the parking lot paving project if it can be done in phases. The rebate blessing will be kept in a separate account pending a decision on how to apply it.

**Town Hall Meetings** –The President has scheduled two Town Hall meetings for Sunday, September 17 and Wednesday, September 20, to provide an opportunity for the congregation to discuss the call process and ask questions. A suggestion was made to work through the contents of the book “The Vacancy Journey” provided by the Southeastern District in order to outline and facilitate the congregation’s understanding of the process. The Board tasked itself to develop our overall plan, before the formation of a call committee. Jane C suggested formation of a prayer committee to pray for God’s guidance as we work throughout this process.

**Cemetery of Innocents** – The President received a letter from a church member requesting that Grace host the Cemetery of Innocents, sponsored by the local Right to Life organization. This was sponsored previously at Grace and the Board noted there were both positive and negative feedback of this form of showing support to life. Feedback was received from some parents of our younger school students that it was difficult to explain to children too young to understand the issues. The Board voted not to adopt this form of public display at this time, but to look for other means for the church to demonstrate support for the preservation of life. The president will respond to the member to explain the Board’s decision.

**Board Retreat Dates** – The Board will meet on Sept 25<sup>th</sup> to develop questions for a congregational questionnaire for use in developing a congregational profile, which is a prerequisite to the call process. Questionnaires will be distributed to the congregation on Sunday, Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, with a request that surveys be returned to the board by Sunday Oct 15<sup>th</sup>. On the Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Board will meet at a retreat to draft the profile, and then provide it to the congregation for feedback, with the goal of providing it to the District in November.

**Closing Prayer** – Pastor Long offered the closing prayer.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:30**