

McFarland Lutheran Church Council
Tuesday, October 23, 2018, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

By Sharon Mylrea at 7:05 p.m.

Members Present: Pastor Tim Dean, Pastor Kelli Schmit, Diane Wells (V.P.), Cheryl Brown, Sharon Mylrea (Pres.), Todd Bolstad, Ruth Poutanen, Pete Ellestad, Jeff Gehrke, Rick Hall (Sec. by phone), Brent Odell (Treasurer)

Members not present: Mary Grell, Kevin Strattan, Renee Rodeck, Steve Schoch

1. **Welcome** – Council members moved tables to accommodate Rick on the speaker phone.
2. **Agenda review and changes** – Sharon reviewed the agenda.

3. Devotion

Sharon passed out cards with spiritual questions. Pastor Tim offered a prayer.

4. Treasurer/Finance Committee report – Notes provided by Brent Odell

Cash Balances

Checking Account balance is \$4,546

Total Savings Account balance is \$494,886

Explained that tax year (ends in December) and fiscal year for church (ends in June) are on different schedules.

Mortgage

Additional Capital Building fund contributions totaling \$1,339 that go to reducing the principal of the church mortgage were received. For FY 2018-19 the total additional amount received for the building fund is \$7,568. Mortgage balance is \$1,231,133 (*reduced \$4,464 from previous month*).

Church Giving / Income and Expenses

Offerings received this month were approximately \$34K bringing YTD total offering to \$125,798. YTD church income is \$266,586, an increase of approx. \$91K from last month, which is less than the budgeted YTD amount, but about the same as the total income received last year at this time.

Expenses for the month were \$91K bringing the YTD expense total to \$299,439.

While expenses exceeded YTD income by approx. \$33K, they are below the budgeted YTD amount.

Committees and programs are operating consistent with or below budgeted amounts.

4K Income and Expenses – Page 3

Current 4K expenses are \$10,862.

Pass Thru Summary – Page 4

Designated and undesignated giving totaled \$8,604.

Memorials

YTD memorial amounts received are \$1,540.

5. Mortgage Reduction – Brent Odell

- Mortgage 1st taken out in March 2014 for \$1,850,000 & modified in March 2015 for \$1,543,258.
- Mortgage divided into 2 separate 20 year notes each for \$771,629 at interest rates of 4.95% and 3.8%, respectively.
- Over past 3 ½ years mortgage reduced by \$312,125 leaving current balance of \$1,231,132 (10/1/18).
- Lower interest rate note at 3.8%, contains a provision for a market rate adjustment after 7 years or April 2021, if not paid off.
- Note at 3.8% has a remaining balance of \$506,405;
- Note at 4.95% has a remaining balance of \$724,728
- Capital campaign funds from savings pay principal portion of our mortgage, \$2,350 monthly / \$28,200 annually;
- Interest portion of the mortgage, \$4,590 monthly / \$55,000 annually paid out of operating budget.
- Capital campaign funds, used to pay principal, will be depleted at the end of this FY (2018-2019).

Brent presented this information to council in order to begin a discussion on a possible special appeal to reduce the mortgage in 2019. Council asked some clarifying questions. The importance of continued dialogue by the Council is needed to assure everyone has a clear understanding of the mortgage-related issues. It was also noted that thought should be given to the timing of this initiative, and a clear explanation communicated to members. The council also gives thanks to God for the generosity of the congregation in reducing original mortgage by more than \$600,000 in a little over 4 years! Next step:

- Finance Committee will formulate details plus a simple, clear message which will be presented and discussed at the November 27 Council meeting.

6. Pastor's Reports –

Pastor Tim:

- 11/4 – We will have Stewardship Celebration Lunch, featuring a presentation by Hector Colón, president and CEO of Wisconsin Lutheran Social Services (LSS)
- 11/18 Joe D'Amato will lead a Stewardship Mission Moment, and pledge appeal for the operating budget will be mailed out in November
- Pastor Tim really enjoyed teaching the Adult Faith Formation series on “Mark as a Story”
- 10/28 - Local meteorologist Bob Lindmeier will discuss climate change, and this begins a 4-week series on social ministries during the Adult Faith Formation
- 11/3-4 All Saints Sunday is a day to remember those who have died.
- Organist position remains vacant and recruitment efforts continue. In the meantime, we are blessed to have a number of substitute organists in the short term.
- Pastor Tim will be on vacation 11/20-25.

Pastor Kelli:

- 7 couples participated in the first of quarterly Baptismal Preparation Classes last week.
- Taught Confirmation Large Group last Sunday
 - Pastor Tim and I teach about once a semester
 - Topic: Why are there so many versions of the Bible?
 - Had a great time
- 3rd Grade Bibles
 - Class Tues. Oct 23 at 3:30PM or Sat. Oct 27 at 10AM
 - Students will receive Bibles on Sun. Oct 28 at 10AM service
- Roger Marty is leading a Habitat for Humanity trip to St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana
 - 3 members from MLC (+.6 others) will be gone Nov. 4-10
 - We will bless and send these missionaries on Sun. Oct 28 at 10AM service
- Sunday School Students will be singing on Sun. Oct 28 at 10AM service
- 12th Annual Pumpkin Fest this Sat. Oct 27 from Noon-3PM
- Sunday School Christmas Program Planning Meeting is Tues Nov 13 at 6:30PM
- 20s-30s-40s Ministry: Book Club - I Am Malala
 - Mon. Nov 5 at 7PM at Palenque's restaurant in McFarland
- Walk4Water in September was a success!
 - Hoped to raise funds for one well, but enough was given for two whole wells! A second village has been assigned

- Travelers to Uganda in Spring 2019 will (hopefully) be able to see both wells be dedicated

7. CLM Planning – Todd Bolstad

- Staff survey included 11 responses – people were very open in sharing their ideas.
- Congregational survey yielded 57 responses including eight submitted online. Typing up comments is laborious since we used the free version of Survey Monkey.
- 3 people at listening sessions
- Additional information will be presented at November 27 Council meeting.

8. Safety & Security – The Dane County Sheriff's Office, along with the McFarland Police Department, conducted a workshop, "Preparedness for Active Shooter and Violence within the Community" on October 10. About 100 people attended.

- Sharon has received lots of positive comments – some very specific, "what will we do next?"
- There are some very simple things we can do, e.g. usher training.
- Other suggestions and comments:
 - Put floor maps in each room, doors and windows numbered.
 - We need a balance of security awareness and welcoming atmosphere
 - 100 people now have training on the Run, Hide, Fight approach
 - We need professional input
 - Security cameras?
 - A lot of discerning needed re: cost-effective measures
 - Design and implement drills
 - Develop lock down procedure in case of threat elsewhere in community
 - Staff were very positive. Suggested regular tours for members to be aware of emergency exits
- A security assessment with local police officer (John Miller) could be conducted.
- Task force formation – establish charge plus short and long-term goals. Include table talk program. Engage law enforcement, staff and members with expertise. Rick was asked to lead this task force and bring some ideas about its formation/composition to the November council meeting.

9. Adjourn and Closing Prayer – Pastor Kelli led us in saying the Lord's Prayer together.

Adjourned at 9:02

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

Tuesday, November 27, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Devotion – Steve Schoch