

**DRAFT McFarland Lutheran Church Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 19, 2019**

Call to Order

By Sharon Mylrea at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Pastor Tim, Pastor Kelli, Todd Bolstad, Cheryl Brown, Pete Ellestad, Rick Hall (Sec.), Jeff Gehrke, Mary Grell, Sharon Mylrea (Pres.), Brent Odell (Treas.), Ruth Poutanen, Renee Rodeck, Steve Schoch, Kevin Strattan, Diane Wells (V.P.).

1. **Welcome** – We shared recent experiences of kindness.
2. **Agenda review and changes**
3. **Devotion** – **Pete Ellestad** led us in a daily devotion by Max Lucado.
4. **Treasurer/Finance Committee Report – Brent Odell, Treasurer**
 - Checking Account balance is \$121,575 Total Savings Account balance is \$497,828. A new account line item now appears under savings identified as ‘Debt Reduction Funds’ with a current balance of \$5,320.
 - Additional Capital Building fund contributions totaling \$1,294, which go to reducing the principal of the church mortgage, were received. For FY 2018-19 the total additional contributions received for the building fund are \$19,825. Mortgage balance is \$1,202,385 (*reduced \$4,707 from previous month*).
 - Offerings received this month were approximately \$38K bringing YTD total offering to \$389,951.
 - YTD church income is \$823,902 an increase of approx. \$94K from last month, which exceeds the budgeted YTD amount by \$5K. Additionally, YTD income is more than income received last year at this time by approx. \$26K.
 - Expenses for the month were \$98K bringing the YTD expense total to \$704,205. YTD expenses were not only under budget, but also below income by approximately \$22K. Committees and programs are operating consistent with or below budgeted amounts.
 - Current YTD 4K expenses are lower than income received to date by approximately \$48K. This increase from last month reflects the 2nd payment from the school district received in February.
 - Designated and undesignated giving totaled \$4,971. YTD memorial amounts received \$2,075.

5. Pastors’ reports – Pastor Tim, Pastor Kelli

Pastor Tim:

- We are in the middle of our Lenten journey theme of “Living Our Baptism”. We have four Wednesdays left. Palm Sunday is April 14. Easter is April 21. Pastor encourages council members to have their feet washed on Maundy Thursday.
- Pastors are teaching our Lenten theme in Adult Faith Formation classes each

Sunday.

- Adult Faith Formation starting 4/28 will feature “All In” DVD on discipleship by Pastor Mark Batterson.
- Pastor Tim attended a March 1 World Day of Prayer event at Habitat for Humanity. Habitat has built 275 homes in Dane County over 30 years. They are beginning a new site south of Sun Prairie. Ron Vandeberg and Pastor Tim are talking about having a “build day” with MLC members sometime in the next 5-6 months. More details to follow!
- Two members – Wayne Corey and Bonnie Dirks will attend Synod Assembly May 4-5 along with our pastors. They will provide an update at the May council meeting.

Pastor Kelli:

- First communion group made wafers for for their big day on 3/10.
- The 20-40 group is planning a date night, Mallards game and picnic plus a Mission Moment.
- Puerto Rico mission trip is 3/26- 4/2. Group will get a blessing at 10:00 3/24.
- Uganda mission trip is April 2-15. Group will get a blessing at 8:00 3/24.
- Sunday School students will be singing and providing “adorable chaos” Sunday 3/31 at 10.

6. Mortgage Reduction – Jeff Gehrke – status update

- We held two listening sessions – only 4 non-council members attended.
- Brent’s letter and background material have been effective. Thank you, Brent!
- Pastor Tim got an update today showing 51 pledges for \$67,425.
- Finance Committee thinking of sending out reminders, updates, graphic on progress.

7. CLM Planning – Todd Bolstad – status update

- Sara Phelan shared the CLM Plan with staff. Various church committees are working on their assigned tasks.
- The Personnel Committee is looking at anniversary recognition recommendations and going over benefits and insurance recommendations in the report.

8. Safety & Security – Rick Hall – status update

- Task Force met 3/11 - went through long list of tentative recommendations. Made assignments for members to develop recommendation areas. Diane Wells and Properties Committee working on lighting and physical plant issues, Brian Rodeck working on key and lock system and technology solutions. Rick Hall working on using ushers, greeters and welcome center volunteers as observers and reporters. Brent Plisch and Deb Hettrick working on Run, Hide, Fight and related training for observers, staff and congregation.
- Will meet 4/9 to hash out recommendations and refine cost estimates. Rick to send recommendations to Council around 4/16 for 4/23 Council meeting review.

9. Sabbatical Leave Policy – Sharon Mylrea – review and approval

- Minor revisions received from Pastors.

- Todd asked what about coverage would be provided during a pastor sabbatical. Last time we had three pastors. Synod has folks who can fill in. We can also seek grant funding, e.g. the Lily Foundation. This would be part of the plan 6 months prior to a leave.
- Renee moved and Kevin seconded to approve the Sabbatical Leave Policy. Motion Approved.
- Discussed MLC overall policy structure. Policies are on the MLC shared drive. Sharon will investigate an inventory or checklist of policies and their approval dates. This will include the marriage policy, facilities usage, constitution and bylaws and others.

10. Council Nominations for 2019-2020 – Pastor Tim

Our Annual Meeting is July 28th. The Nominations Committee will include Norma Kohl, Tiffany Kvalheim, Jeff Gehrke and Lee Thorson. Current council members are to bring at least one potential name of a new council person to the meeting next month. Discussed adding a Youth representative to Council for a one voluntary year term. Pastor Tim will follow up with Chris Landerud.

11. Adjourn and Closing Prayer Mary Grell moved to adjourn at 8:45.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

Tuesday, April 23, 2019 – 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Devotion – Kevin Strattan