

COMMUNITY OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Minutes

March 19, 2020 (Zoom Meeting during COVID-19 crisis)

Devotions: Started with "highs and lows."

Call to Order & Roll Call

Present: Sandy Anderson, Ken Colberg, Dennis Engman, Wendy Fitzsimmons, Maia Hendrickson, Jeff Hovis, Mike Mathisen, Dan McMahon, Jeff Montgomery, Tim Orf, Mark Schuneman, Michelle Sherman, Darrin Vick, Angie Way

Excused: all present

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Sandy opened in prayer.

Minutes for January, February, Annual Meeting and Post-Annual Meeting approved with one spelling change.

Pastor Darrin's Report:

Pastor Darrin reminded us that God uses all things for good. He feels energized by these challenging times, and the church always steps up. Being separated from one another is new for us. Darrin expressed appreciation for the church staff. They are creative and dedicated to serving our people well. Although this is great, Darrin sees the need for the staff to take care of themselves and conserve energy. Drive-thru prayer and communion will occur this Sunday, and toilet paper will be available. This is our opportunity to try new things and use our God-given talents. Darrin feels honored to serve with all the leaders and staff of this congregation, and he is leaning into Jesus. Jeanne is doing an amazing job with communications. Denise's dad is in hospice in Duluth, so she is taking time with him. Christi and Linda are supporting well. The "I can help" and the "I need help" buttons are available on the website. At this time, most members use the "I can help" button.

Sunday worship services will remain as consistent as possible. We will rotate between the Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary. Experiments will happen throughout the week as we learn what is sustainable and how to connect. For those who do not have access to the internet, CGLC will provide DVDs.

At this time, we will operate on a week-by-week basis. Through next week, all services will be digital. Holy Week is only three weeks away, and we probably will not be able to host Easter or other Holy Week services in our church. This is difficult. Darrin proposed that we plan to have a big Easter celebration once we can all meet together again. Meanwhile, we will create alternative on-line services for Easter.

The Magnuson Gala will be postponed, and this is difficult for them financially. They requested the ability to host the alternative Gala in our Fellowship Hall later this year. This saves them money.

Jeff assessed our present financial picture and we are conserving cash as possible. We are reviewing the needs of our community and can provide some support. Jeff proposed using a tithe of \$45,000 from our reserves to bless our internal and external community. This includes organizations like the Food Shelf, Magnuson School, and any needs of our members or church staff. The money remaining in the "Pastor's fund" is almost that same amount.

Motion made to earmark \$45,000 from reserve funds to support the needs of our internal and external community during the Covid-19 crisis.

Motion carried. Decided to call it "The Hands and Feet Fund." The COVID-19 Advisory Team members may approve requests up to \$2500. The Executive team may approve requests between \$2,500-\$10,000. Any amount over \$10,000 will require Council approval. If any requests come from our existing partners, please bring Jeff and Michelle into the conversations.

Pastor Angie's Report:

She expressed concern for those who do not have internet access, and she is working to figure out how to support them. She has reached out to the Circle Leaders and asked them to report any needs from their teams. Staff members are making calls to members and confirming who needs paper copies or DVDs. A written note to seniors would be helpful. The senior newsletter will include devotional resources for Holy Week.

Core Team Reports

Children's Ministries: Wendy Fitzsimmons

Wendy checked in with Britta who would like to see the children in church more regularly. With our present model, Sunday school commitments prevent Britta and Victoria from attending worship. The Easter egg hunt will be cancelled. HISKids resources are available for parents to pick up. Teachers were asked to connect with parents and let them know that the lessons are available. Britta is reading Bible Stories Monday-Thursday. She is also working with Dan Lugo to prepare action songs to encourage parents to worship with the children. Parenting 226 concluded, and a mentoring night is scheduled for April 29. Sunday services will include a children's message.

Student Ministries: Dan McMahon

Melinda is concerned about the students who are missing activities. A series entitled "Refuge at Home" is under development and will include a leader guide for families. Zoom meetings for high school students will enable them to have discussion groups. Staff are looking for ways to have students serve in our community by possibly helping the senior citizens, and middle school students are writing letters. Leaders are looking for other ways to connect with students.

Adult Ministries: Jeff Hovis

The "Ask Away" and Chili Cook-Off events were postponed. The core team is working with Hanna regarding options for groups. We may consider video conferencing.

Seniors: Ken Colberg

People are missing the soup suppers. Church staff have blessed the seniors by calling them.

Worship: Tim Orf

Dan Lugo is creatively equipping people to worship at home with families. We may live stream some worship outside of Sunday mornings. A video devotional was created for last Wednesday and more are coming. Angie will announce this in her message this Sunday. These resources may require more communication.

Welcome/Hospitality: Dennis Engman

Welcome team: Co-leads are checking in with one another to see how they can reach out to others. Darrin shared that we have plenty of toilet paper, and we advertised that we have some to spare. Just this week, Hanna brought two rolls to some shut-ins.

Missions: Michelle Sherman

HOOD: Planning to reach out to Perry regarding the Stamp out Hunger event scheduled for May 9. Logistics may be difficult with the COVID-19 crisis.

HOM: Project Home is moving the shelters to the day center and sheltering in place. Without the volunteers, they need to hire interim staff. Presently, they are unable to accept food donations, so the financial need is growing. CGLC made a \$2,000 donation to assist them.

Infrastructure Reports**Treasurer/Stewardship/Facilities Reports: Mike Mathisen and Jeff Montgomery**

We reviewed the financial summary. January and February started well. We raised a \$40,000 gift for Mission of Hope. Now, discretionary spending has halted related to the COVID-19. Paul Wetterling is taking advantage of an empty facility and doing some maintenance and deep cleaning. We are managing expenses effectively and watching for any government support. The work on the roof is nearly completed. With about \$450,000 in cash reserves, our plan is to focus on the internal and external community and provide help as requests come in.

Secretary's Report: Maia

No report.

Vice President's Report: Mark Schuneman

No report.

President's Report: Sandy Anderson

Other new business:

Question raised, what are we doing about funerals? At this time, we are following recommendations of the CDC, but small gatherings or gravesite services are permissible. Angie's share that her parent's church did a recording of a service to support necessary grieving.

November Work Assignments

Offering Auditors: Not needed at this time. Remember to look at Sign-up Geniuses

Devotions and refreshments: Once we can meet together again, Mike will provide.

Plan to meet online April 16.

Wendy closed in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Maia Hendrickson