

Board Name: Church Council	Board Members Present: Anne Thomas, Nate Anderson, Rebecca Anderson, Tom Dorscheid, Arwen Twitchett, Jer Carpenter, Dennis Garvin, Tim Drinkwater, Pr. Michael, Elisa Ried, Steve Shulta, Randy Ziebell
Meeting in Room 301	
Meeting date: 1/16/2024 (Monthly Meeting 6:30 pm)	

Church Council Meeting

- Pr. Michael said opening prayer and President Dorscheid called the meeting to order.

Agenda Adoption

- **CC1.16MMS01** Adopt Agenda with the addition of investment opportunities under unfinished business - SS/NA - all approved

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Approval of Minutes CC

- **CC1.16MMS02** Approve Minutes - SS/AT - all approved

Consent Agenda/Board Reports

- **CC1.16MMS03** Approve Minutes - JC/NA - all approved

FLC Foundation Update (Kevin McMullen)

- Kevin presented a positive update
 - with the help of Wagner CPA and David Moore, it was determined that the FLC Foundation is a charitable organization as they have the necessary documentation (even if the IRS does not).
 - David Moore was also able to determine that the FLC Foundation is an integrated auxiliary, existing for First Lutheran Church and their focused outreach programs and that the funding comes from the church, so they do not have to file 990s.
- Kevin proposed:
 - a joint effort between FLC's council and the Foundation to have a connection and that they work together to possibly fill openings on the boards.
 - The Foundation would like to work with the council as the fiscal year changes and they can be flexible with timelines, if necessary
 - Foundation would look for input from the council in the application process to make sure there is alignment with what the council has prioritized.
- Kevin will present at the annual meeting:
 - they have had a very successful year and now have reserves of over 2 million
 - PLC Foundation will disburse \$100,000 this year in grants (a marked increase)
 - moving the application deadline to April 1st
 - give time to work with the council to prioritize needs and outreach
- Kevin and the Foundation are looking for a subset of the council to work with a small group from the Foundation to move forward and work together.

Financial Report (Tim Drinkwater)

- Balance Sheet
 - Current Assets - \$513,586.45
- Profit and Loss/Operating
 - We are above budget by \$75,638 for the year to date regular contributions (above budget year

to date by \$9,477 for matching funds), so total contributions are above budget year to date by \$85,115. Year to date total income was \$906,984, above budget by \$104,617 and up by \$82,916 from the previous year.

- Rostered leaders is very close to budget.
- Administration is over budget on accounting fees due to the final billing from our previous payroll company and increased credit card usage (from fees associated with credit card giving), also from the increased wages that went into effect in October of 2023.
- Buildings and grounds is currently over budget. Alliant energy gas billing has been incorrect for the last few months, there is a placeholder amount of \$10,000 to cover any charges. The corrections will be sent in January or February from Alliant.
- Worship is below budget by \$2,442, due to reduced Christmas storage expenses and fewer payroll musicians.
- Youth is over budget due to the increased 4H Fair food booth and parking lot expenses as well as from the implementation of the new salary adjustments.
- **Memorial and Gifts**
 - Rostered Leaders – Diaconal internship stipend
 - Administration – Second half of the HR Contract, website updates, retractable tradeshow vision banners, vision wall graphics and Facebook advertising.
 - Buildings and grounds – Fire analysis of front entrance and Facility Master Plan meetings with Angus Young.
 - Stewardship –Horizons Stewardship contract
 - Witness –FLC sweatshirts, Baby’s First Book Club supplies and Safe Families supplies. Expenses for
 - Echo meal and Ash Wednesday meal. Open table training and community outreach expenses.
 - Worship – Chalice, ciborium and communion trays. Instrument repair, A/V cables, stage floor and piano dolly. First Events concert musicians and extra musicians for Holy Week, Easter, All Saints and Christmas. Gym stage lighting and audio equipment.
 - Youth and family – Winter retreat expenses. Facebook ads for vacation bible school. College scholarships, young adult group meetings and Masterpiece events and supplies, and summer mission trip expenses.
 - Life Together – Baseball tickets
 - Misc – FLCW expenses
- There was a discussion for information that there has been a quote for approximately \$6600 to seal and repair cracks in the parking lot. Building & Grounds Board will use money in designated Memorials & Gifts account to pay for this
- **CC1.16MMS04** Approve April Financial Report - SS/RA - all approved

Ministry Report/Update Items- Pr. Michael

- Christmas was well attended - ~500 at the 4:00 pm service and ~280 at the 7:00 pm service
- New Members welcomed on January 14th - optimistic that the new members are already connected
- Small staff group with a strength in development are starting to meet over a Discipleship Development Project
- Safe Families had a leadership change at both the local and state level
- Still hoping to focus on the assessment for Emergency Preparedness for Worship Houses
- Adult Education
 - Canoeing the Mountains, Book Study - Feb. 12, Mar. 11
 - Sunday Forum Series
 - Generation Day - Feb. 4
- New Members
 - Feb. 11 - Life Together as PLC - a lunch and learning event for recent new members (2020-present)
- Sunday School and Confirmation
 - no update

- Youth
 - Release time (Craig HS) at FLC: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, started Dec 20
 - Winter Chill Retreat - Jan 19-21. Group will lead worship on the Jan 28
- Worship
 - Mardi Gras Sunday - Feb 11
 - Lent Midweek Service - Making a Way Out of No Way - (Ash Wednesday Feb 14)
- Outreach
 - Open Table - good process underway with first group. A second group is being organized now for training.
 - First Events
 - Jan 27 - The OK Factory and JAERV
 - Feb 10 - Sock Hop with Frank and Co
- Next Level Generosity
 - Dustin Cooper's visit postponed
 - still only 3 members identified but some new ideas to pursue
- Baptism: 1
- Funerals: 3 (2 more coming up soon)
- Vacation: Jan 19-26
- Update on Deacon Jen W. - looking at a 15-hour call with another church, would leave her open to 25 hours with FLC, if possible
- Discussed Building Unity asking to hold an event on their synod tour at FLC - council denied as they do not have enough information or understanding of the event and not enough time to plan.

Synod and Church wide Updates

- Strategic Ministry Project Grant - next cycle delayed to the 2nd quarter of 2023 due to decrease in Mission Support Funding
- LEAD 2024 - registration deadline is 12:00 noon on Thursday, Jan 25
 - Register now at: <https://scsw-ela.org/lead2023/>
 - LEAD will be Feb 17 in Sauk Prairie
- Want to go Solar in 2024? The synod Care for God's Creation team will host a Zoom meeting on Jan 18 from 6:30-8:00 for congregations interested in installing solar panels at their church.
- Campus Ministry Sunday provides an occasion to highlight campus ministry. Dennis will take to the youth board for follow up.

Unfinished Business

- Pastor Housing Allowance for 2024 will be \$26,505 - **CC1.16MMS05** - RZ/AT - all approved
- Office Server Replacement
 - a lot of discussion as our current server died this morning and we have a loaner from Ingatek
 - New server is about \$7000.
 - Option to explore Sharepoint but do not have a firm quote
 - Discussion about having a deep dive into exploiting our actual needs
 - **CC1.16MMS06** - Motion to purchase on site server - SS/AA - motion passes (7 approved/2 opposed)
- Wedding Reception Request
 - a June wedding is having their reception at PLC and have requested to serve wine, beer, signature cocktails and have a champagne toast
 - **CC1.16MMS07** - Motion to allow wedding to have alcohol at the reception pending our insurance approves or the couple provides additional insurance - RZ/SS - all approve
 - **CC1.16MMS08** - Motion to have council revise the Building Use Policy by the end of the February - SS/RZ - all approve
- Plan for annual meeting

- Tom is developing the agenda so it can be posted very soon.
 - Tom, Tim, Pastor Michael, Nate, Kristy, and Steve will be speaking
- Investment Opportunities Update
 - Arwen and Tim are working to invest the money that was decided in December.
 - Johnson Bank only offered 1.5 %
 - Thrivent was more involved than we were hoping and about 3%
 - Blackhawk Credit Union is offering 5% on CDs.
 - **CC1.16MMS09** - Motion to open an account at Blackhawk Credit Union to invest in CDs - RA/AT - all approved
- A discussion was tabled so that we continue to discuss the definition and uses of program boards - will be moved to unfinished business so that definitions can be presented at the regular meeting in June.

New Business

- Tabled until future meeting

For the Good of the Church

- Jude - he is home ill and still working to make sure the building is warm and running
- Jeanie and Nan for the meal at the new member brunch
- Phylis for taking the lead and the new member brunch

Action Items

- Dennis will take the Campus Ministry to the youth board for feedback
- Arwen and Tim will open an account with Blackhawk and start purchasing the CDs
- Tom will complete the Annual Meeting Agenda

Time for Reflection and Closing Prayer

- Closing prayer

Adjourn Meeting

- **CC1.16MMS10** Adjourn Meeting RA/AT - All Approve.

Next meeting: Feb 20, 2024, 6:30pm

Respectfully Submitted, Elisa Ried, Temp. Secretary

Please keep in mind:

- It is not necessary to fill in all three boxes every month.
- Council members will receive this report in packets prior to the monthly meeting.
- Council members should read the bragging points and future plans as a means of staying informed regarding the work of individual boards.
- Chairpersons need not review the bragging points and future plans at Council meetings but be prepared to answer any pertinent questions.
- Chairpersons should focus their report on those issues requiring guidance or action by the full Council or Executive Board.