

Core Team Minutes

Nov 20, 2023

Present: Pastor Chad, Patrick Rasmussen, Don Oram (SPRT), Tanya Alemu (Chair), Carol Ottoson, Paula Green, Lynnette Dobberpuhl

Opened in prayer

Signage clarification: We approved the new size and design of the 4' x4' signs which will be placed on the ramp rail (front) and on the back of the building on the NW corner. A new sign with updated logo, website, church name and a black border will be planned for placement on the brick front at the NE corner. Patrick will order as soon as he has received the finalized art.

Finance:

- **Insurance:** Great American is quoting \$1000 less per year (\$15k vs \$16K) with better coverage, the last meeting with them is scheduled for next week. Church Property Mutual was requesting Loss Run reports which were difficult to find, but are now in hand, and we will be getting more info from them in the next week or two.
- **Pledges:** Pledges for 2024 are starting out well, we have gratitude for new givers and increased giving from those who have turned in their pledges so far. Our income YTD \$245,000 = 181K in giving +45K interest income transferred from designated reserves (memorials and building) +20K transferred from an undesignated reserve fund. We will have a new report next month showing our current amount remaining in reserve. We set a limit earlier that if necessary we would begin making cuts in programming before dipping below a reserve equivalent to two month's expenses.
- **Venmo:** we have been approved for a new PayPal charitable account and should be Venmo approved as soon as we have a mobile phone verification. Need to update QR code powerpoint slide and website to reflect this.
- **Northland offer:** last week Northland Development increased an earlier offer from 700K to 1M, with some wiggle room about where the property line would be drawn (to have room for the garden and the playground). Northland is planning to build luxury apartments for adults and families (like they did next to Grace UMC in Burnsville.) If we decide to move forward, we would need to apply for authorization through the Annual Conference and our district, which would give guidelines for the transaction. Any agreement would need to be approved through our own church conference (a meeting in which members will vote). Proceeds from the sale of property can only be used for capital expenses, although the interest could be used for general expenses. The valuation of land in our area is in line with the offer of 1M. Northland is seeking fast tracking for an agreement to a nonbinding letter of intent by end of the year, which is highly ambitious (and unlikely given our constraints of working with the district and conference hierarchy.) An agreement with letter of intent would allow them to begin a 4-5 month process of exploring due diligence needs before an actual transaction could take place. Lynnette moved, Paula seconded that Chad contact the Annual Conference with an updated letter of intent negotiated with Northland (with new property line drawn at sidewalk from parking lot to rear of parsonage, a request for help in moving the playground, demolition of entire parsonage, and regrading the lot

and restoring landscaping with premium soil) for permission to explore this possibility further.
Motion approved.

CYF: no new report, Chad noted that a young attendee of our Kids' Church was so enthusiastic telling his friend about "Sunday School" that he prompted an entire family to begin going to their own church together again. Even children can spread the word, let us all follow this lead!

Trustees: improvements to parsonage tabled

I-Team: a group from Holy Trinity toured Hocokata Ti (the Mdewakanton Cultural Center) with a guide and it was excellent. Hocokat Ti will host their Waniyetu art sale Dec 7-9 allowing public to enter areas normally reserved for tribal members. Inclusion focus calendar for 2024 is set. Dec 17 we are inviting all to bring food from their own cultural heritage (whether it originated long ago or recently adopted) for fellowship hour sharing. Cindy and Carol went to see Ellie Krug, a lawyer who is transgender, for a thought-provoking program "Gray Area Thinking" on all-encompassing human identities. Her book, *The Road to Ellie*, is both heartbreaking and enlightening.

SPRT: Team has recommended 3% raise for all employees. The Core Team supported this.

Outreach recaps

- Fall Festival: was robustly planned and executed, weather may have decreased attendance since the bounce house was not a visible sign the event was happening. Street signage may help, may need to plan it a week earlier next year to reduce conflicts. It was felt the event would be worth trying again if we can get enthusiastic leadership similar to this year.
- Buy Nothing Holiday Swap & Shop: was a fantastic event, about 40 families came to donate, shop or both, lots of positive energy, three gave small donations and others asked about the church and expressed appreciation to us for hosting. Want to do it again or something similar, soon.
- Candy Crawl: brought approximately 150 kids and adults through, indoors so they could see sanctuary and narthex, play games, get candy, have a photo opp in a campground setup (S'more of God's Love), and get warm beverages.
- Upcoming events: Blanket tying for Emma Norton Services, Cap's Hope for the Holidays,
- Dec 2 10 am decorating the sanctuary for Advent
- December 17 cultural sharing treats for fellowship
- Dec 24 9:30am cantata, 5pm family interactive & candles, 10pm communion & candles

Congregational Conference (annual meeting and voting on church business by members): scheduled for Jan 7, 2024 at 10:45am

Seeking nominations for leadership: SPRT, Trustees, Missions, Finance, I-Team, Core Team

More greeters at doors on Sunday morning are needed.

Next meeting: Monday, December 18, 2024

