

Congregational Board Meeting – June 14, 2016

Attending – Phil Love (via Skype), Leeann Blundell, Amy Guthrey, Lee Brumitt, Mary McClure, Katie Cronin, Esther Giffin, Bill Watson, Jayson Parker, Cindy Irely, Jeff Zimmerman, Elvin Knight, Amy Rose, Amy Holmes, Susan Garner, Carty Johannsen, Jason Roske, Sally Nielsen, Kathy McDandel, Lynn Cockle (incoming Treasurer)

Not Attending – Betsy Wilson, Steve Bough, Nancy Lear, J.J. Jones

Opening

Leeann Blundell called the meeting to order and opened with a meditation.

Approval of the Minutes from the May Board Meeting

Leeann Blundell asked the board for any amendments or corrections to the minutes from the previous board meeting. After no additions were provided, Ms. Blundell called for a motion to approve the minutes. There was a motion, which was seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

2016-2017 Budget Review and Approval

Amy Guthrey briefly reviewed the Dashboard report, noting that Endowment year-to-date transfers stand at ~\$200k, about \$130k less than budgeted; most of the remaining balance will be transferred before the end of the fiscal year. Ms. Guthrey added that the checking account is still healthy and that year-to-date contributions are running roughly \$60k less than last year. Overall, the church is slightly ahead of budget in terms of giving.

Ms. Guthrey noted that the budgeting process for the 2016-2017 year went very well thanks in part to the Finance committee's willingness to hold tough discussions and to the staff for producing bottom-up budgets. The 2016-2017 proposed budget includes a 2% budgeted increase in total donations compared to the prior year budget with an 8% increase in pledged contributions. There is an increase in projected personnel expenses due to a move of contracting expenses from practical services to personnel and \$18k of raises; this is partially offset by a reduction in the cost of workers' compensation insurance. Additional funds are also provided for Enrichment and Music to support the 2016-3017 board vision.

The Outreach and Mission budget expense line item was created to combine all outreach budgets; Ms. Guthrey reported that the Finance Committee proposed 11% of church revenue for Outreach spending, one percent higher than the previously approved amount in the Long-Range Financial Plan of the church. Ms. Guthrey added that the Finance Committee recommends a review of the Long-Range Financial Plan, as it was originally formulated anticipating debt from the capital campaign as well as an environment of decreased giving, neither of which are still applicable.

Leeann Blundell asked if there were any questions from the board. Brief discussion followed. After some clarifications, the board moved, seconded, and unanimously approved the 2016-2017 budget.

In closing, Amy Guthrey supplied that the Finance Committee is looking into additional methods for better fiscal reporting, including possibly changing the metrics presented on the Dashboard. The board thanked Amy Guthrey for her service as Treasurer.

Stewardship Update

Glen Miles provided details of the ongoing Stewardship campaign on behalf of J.J. Jones. Dr. Miles reported that last year at this time, the church had 309 pledges received totaling ~\$1.037m. In the current campaign, the church has received 314 pledges with a total of ~\$1.124m. 42% of all pledges received to date are increased from last year, and there are about 30 new pledges for the 2016-2017 year.

Multi-Site Study

Glen Miles briefly elaborated upon the history of a sub-committee, led by Dick Horn in partnership with committee members Jayson Parker and Jeff Zimmerman, which reviewed the possibility of expanding the church to a multi-site campus. The formation of this team was inspired by two articles published regarding church growth. Dr. Miles supplied that the team studied three churches of similar size and demographics and discovered that although growth did occur, it was not on the scale that was suggested in the aforementioned articles. Materials from the study are available for the board to review by request. Dr. Miles stressed that there is no recommendation at this time, that this was strictly something that he wanted the board to be aware of as another consideration for revitalizing worship. Discussion followed.

Senior Minister Report

Glen Miles opened his report with a summary of the vision of ministry adopted by the board. Dr. Miles then discussed early progress toward the board's vision for the staff. In terms of revitalization of worship, the staff is looking at new worship designs with Paul Tucker and Dina Evans along with a team of past worship ministry chairs. Special attention is focused upon the current 9:00 am service held outside. Toward the goal of expanding the importance and availability of small groups, Dr. Miles added that the program staff of the church has held several discussions about small group possibilities and have tentatively planned for 19 groups to date. The board was then asked for ways for the staff to communicate the vision of ministry to the congregation; members of the board provided that this could be conveyed in a worship service in the form of a pastoral prayer or could be presented in videos to play online and/or the church parlor.

Dr. Miles also added that he is currently preaching the sermon series "Crazy Busy." The next sermon series will be called "Unlovable" and is inspired from preaching suggestions from a previous Elders and Deacons meeting. Dr. Miles then took a moment to say a word of gratitude for the board for dealing with the concerns and challenges of the previous church year.

Important Dates

Leeann Blundell briefly supplied some dates for the board to note:

- June 26 - Ice Cream Social and Chairs Recognition
- There will be no Board Meeting in July
- September 17 - Elder/Deacon Retreat
- February 3-4 - Board Retreat

Recognition and Cake

Phil Love, via Skype, took a moment to acknowledge the members of the board who are ending their term on June 30. Mr. Love thanked them for their service and wished them well. Leeann Blundell added that cake was provided and the meeting paused for a moment for a thank you reception. Phil Love left the call following his acknowledgement.

Adjournment

Leeann Blundell called the board back to the table after a few minutes of the reception. Seeing no further business, Ms. Blundell called the meeting to a close. Glen Miles provided a closing prayer.