

Board of Elders Meeting 2/16/19

Chairman Eric opened the meeting at 10:15am. Eric Poppinga, Steve Carbno, Nick Dreyer, Paul Dockter, Lynn Nord, Wayne Johnson, Ed Haugen all present. Jim Potts absent. Pastor Davis in attendance.

Pastor Davis shared a devotion and led us in prayer. Eric shared the agenda with the group and discussed the meeting agenda. He also shared some meeting guidelines with the group.

Pastor Davis was given the floor

He presented a book to each of the Elders titled "The Caring Elder." The Elders responded with gratitude and thanks. He reported on the progress of the Transition Team, telling the group that they meet at the end of the month. He also mentioned that there will be a demographics meeting on March 7th with a representative from the District that will be sharing this information with the attendees. This meeting is designed for the congregation showing them trends and possible changes to the city that might have an impact on our ministry. i.e.: With the new hospital going up in the neighborhood how will that give us ministry opportunities, or if we continue to see expanded housing on the south end of town will it affect our church population? Do we look at expansion of our building?

He stated that things will slow down a little around Lent & Easter and he plans to take a break after Easter after which plans are to start the call process by the 1st of May with the self-study. The Call Committee will be formed by the end of May. Should have candidates identified by the end of June/July. When the call starts, Pastor Davis will take an advisory role.

He shared that Lenten services will deal with witnesses of the last days of Jesus on the earth his sermons will deal with specific characters and will focus on self-reflection.

He reported that he has been busy with the issue of finding a Director of Christian Education (DCE). He shared that he had sent out a request to the seminaries and received two inquires about the position. He stated that he had a phone conversation with both of them and they both seemed compatible with our needs and were experienced in Christian education. A formal Skype-style interview will be scheduled after the mission trip is completed.

He shared that Confirmation Sunday will be May 12th. Services will be in the afternoon and the specific order of the service is still being set with the intentions that the Elders are involved in the service. He also reported the 8th grade class will be confirmed on Reformation Sunday, 2019 and in doing so, this will bring us to the 2 year confirmation program that was recommended last year.

Wayne questioned Pastor if there had been any more discussion from President Bertsch regarding the music at the contemporary services. (A request had been made to submit lyrics to him prior to the services) Pastor said there had not been anything heard as of late. He said 6 weeks of songs had been sent to him which was felt adequate and we would not be sending anymore. All songs that are used are Biblically based and should be acceptable. It was also reported that another church had been given this request and declined to share them without an official request.

Pastor Davis reported that the Financial Peace class was going well. He shared some figures and was pleased to see the effect it was having on the attendees.

Lynn reported on the S-TEAM

He stated that they were ready to start the next phase of replacing existing lights with the LED lights. He stated that the old fixtures will be offered up to the congregation for a free will offering. He shared that the savings from this move will pay for itself in 2-3 years. Steve offered up that two months after doing this at the Goodwill store he has seen a 47% decrease in his utility bill.

There have been some plumbing issues identified in the building and efforts are being made to resolve them.

The portable classroom is creating lots of issues with frozen water lines and just some general upkeep issues common to this type of construction. There is no insulation under the unit and should be addressed before next winter, along with repairs to the doors among other small issues.

The television in the back of the Church has failed. A donation to replace has been given and should be installed next week.

He reported that the Church Youth will be cleaning some carpets at the Church as a community service project.

He feels that the mouse issue has been successfully resolved after finding a spot in the foundation that looked like a point of entry. This has been filled with Quikcrete and the problem has seemed to be over.

Discussion was held on the possibility of creating an “ Adopt a Room” program allowing members or groups within the congregation to adopt a room with the intention that they clean up, fix up, paint a room within the church. Some rooms in the LHLH wing have been done and we could do this for the rest of the church and brighten up some rooms that are in desperate need.

Chairman Eric asked Lynn if their team has enough members to complete all the tasks that are handed to them. Lynn responded that he and Ryan Schaan do the majority of the work and could use more members.

Steve reported on MercyCare

He shared with the Board the financial report showing what was carried over from 2018 and the additional resources gathered during the last Merycare Sunday. 2018 saw us assist in 10 cases. Along with the money received these individuals were also counseled in ways to assist them out of their situations.

He also updated the Elders on our recent cases and where things were with those.

Steve will be doing the “Ministry Moment” March 3rd about MercyCare.

Another issue that came from Pastor Davis was the New Member Sunday that will be March 10th. We will host a soup potluck that day as a way to welcome them to the church. This will be announced in church over the next couple of Sundays. At that potluck Pastor said we can finish up the church time-line as well.

Nick reported on “Lutherans for Life”

A speaker is available on two dates in April. Nick will get that set and the speaker will be available for the Men’s Bible Study Saturday, and 9:30 & 11:00 am Sunday.

Eric reported on Membership Congregational Correlation Update

This is needed for an accurate measurement of our membership and to the district for our monetary commitment for every active member of the congregation. Kim Haugen has been a great help with this in offering up detailed lists of the Congregational Roll. It was decided that we need to be diligent in creating a letter that will be easy to respond to us with. The Elders will assist with this process. We will work with leadership on the criteria for the info needed.

Ed discussed some concerns/personal feelings regarding the volume of the worship music in general and also the types of music played and heard during the contemporary worship. It was stated from the floor that there have been some who have gotten up and left the worship due to the volume. Eric and Nick brought up the specific concern about the volume during Communion. Servers notice people leaning in to hear the server’s words and servers at times have to speak much louder. This is a very reverent and personal time and we would hope the music could assist with that reflection. The Board agreed to work with the band and find a compromise.

Eric posed 4 questions to the board that he received during conversations regarding worship styles and specifics:

- 1) "...it would be good to have at least one historical liturgical service from the hymnal with hymns"
- 2) "Please don't paraphrase the Creeds or the Lord's Prayer. We should leave those as written"
- 3) Have one song in the 9:30 & 11:00 worship be a hymn that references the season of the Church that we're in... for example Epiphany Day or the Baptism of our Lord or the appropriate season that our Church celebrates.
- 4) I've heard many hymns from the Lutheran Hymnal done without an organ, but with contemporary instruments and it sounds great. Can we please do on song in the 9:30 & 11:00 service that's a hymn, but done with the band.

Eric asked the Elders to read each question or statement thoroughly. Before substantial discussion on these questions took place, Eric presented another document from the District President. This letter was a result of a meeting Eric had with President Bertsch. This letter had the same questions/requests/statements as the one handed out just a few minutes prior, but with more detail. Eric stated that he wanted everyone to read the questions and think about the statement or request without a bias or prejudged notion of the author of statements, but rather read them with an open mind. Eric presented it in this fashion to illustrate how we can block out or refuse to independently read a statement simply because we disregard the document due to its author and also how unnecessarily polarized this issue with OSLC and the District has unfortunately become. He said if we are truly God-driven in our ministry we cannot continue to have these issues based on our interpretations. In sitting down with President Bertsch, Eric found that we are much closer on our viewpoint of worship details than anyone would've ever thought. Many seem to think there is a list so great that it was insurmountable, however when we sit down and discuss things, we discover that the list of items to be considered is brief and very much worth a continued fruitful discussion and decision. Eric also discussed the paraphrasing of Creeds as an unnecessary practice. Eric stated that we go to great lengths to use the Creeds as foundational documents of the Church and a statement of our faith to be stated and shared among all of us, in order to remain in the One True Faith.

Discussion began and each question was addressed:

- 1) We are providing two Sundays per month of hymnal-led 8:15 services and will continue to use Set 1 for the Divine Service from the Hymnal until a comfort level is achieved in order to expand onto the other Sets of Divine Worship.
- 2) To the best of our recollection, we haven't paraphrased the Lord's Prayer. As far as the Creeds, the majority of Elders seemed to agree with Eric that we should not paraphrase the Creeds, however no vote was taken and this will be a continued topic of discussion.
- 3) It was pointed out by Ed that there are songs played that resemble hymns and lyrically reference hymns. It was also stated by Pastor Davis that the song prior to the sermon allows him time to prepare for the sermon of the day since it's typically pointing to the lesson somehow musically.
- 4) Ed shared that the hymns as written in the hymnal are nearly impossible to perform with modern day instrumentation. He explained that the originals were written for lutes and zithers and old world musical instrumentation. He referenced back to #3 and stated that people can recognize the old hymns.

It was mentioned that alternatives are being made to allow other music to the congregation. In particular it was noted how well received to country gospel Sundays have been. The study and review of music styles, lyrics, and presentation will continue as we move forward.

In summation, one issue that might have some polarization is the Traditional Creeds verses paraphrased Creeds. The Board will continue to work with Pastor Davis and others to address the issue and take any appropriate action on the subject.

Eric made this proposal:

It has been brought to his attention and to the attention of others on the Board that there are still a decent amount of congregants that want to commune every week. He stated that there are some who stated that they would need to attend other churches on the off weeks to do so. His proposal, at this time, is between Traditional and contemporary services, can we offer communion every week? From the floor there was discussion and a plan was agreed upon to continue to offer Communion twice a month the 1st & 3rd Sunday for traditional and the 2nd & 4th for contemporary. This plan may bring other issues to the table, one of which is do we need to increase the number of people serving with the Altar Guild?

Making sure we have enough people to assist in serving/ushering. Eric stated that issues such as ushering and the Altar Guild should not prevent us from offering Communion to the congregation more often and that we need to find a way to make this work for our congregation.

This brought on another point of discussion with Communion. Are we insuring that people are properly prepared to take Communion? Are we allowing appropriate education in the area of self-examination? We have a list of questions in the bulletins but feel we should place a slide up to insure that people understand the importance of answering these questions before taking Communion and that what we are doing is appropriate in the standard of the LCMS.

A motion was made by Lynn and seconded by Nick to add an additional Communion Service to the Contemporary services on the 2nd and 4th Sunday. 6 yes votes 1 no vote 1 N/A

Eric stated that he will be working on a Ministry Moment dealing with daily scripture reading.

Another possible ministry moment that was discussed was the participation in the "Back Pack Buddies" program. Eric shared a list of facts regarding the program and conditions within the community. Eric also discussed the amount of schools who use the program currently and the fact that the program could be doubled and it still wouldn't serve all of the kids in need. Eric shared a United Way document that listed the need to support kids that do not have adequate food to eat over the weekend times and the amount of kids within our City that go hungry. Some kids may go home Friday afternoon and eat very little to nearly nothing until lunchtime at school on Monday. This program is a support system to youth by supporting it with food, monetary donations, or time. To feed hungry kids that typically only get a good meal in school. It was decided to investigate further and possibly bring it to the congregation at a later date.

There was no other or new business to discuss, Next Meeting will be March 16th at 10:00am

Nick closed in prayer

Meeting Adjourned 2:40pm

In His service, Steve Carbno