

Community of Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes

September 15, 2022

Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Ken Colberg, Mike Duesenberg, Dennis Engman, Wendy Fitzsimmons, Mike Hamernick, Andy Hennig, Mike Mathisen, Dan McMahon, Mark Schuneman, Michelle Sherman, Darrin Vick, Angie Way.

Excused:

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm

Devotions for October will be shared by Mike Duesenberg

Approval of minutes –

- The minutes from the August Council meeting were approved, with one correction to “Master of Divinity Degree”

Pastor Darrin’s Report

- How do we handle political and social issues as leaders of CGLC?
- Quote from Andy Stanley: “We are not at war with the culture. Culture-war Christianity is not simply a waste of time, it is diametrically opposed to the teaching of Paul and the example of Jesus. As it relates to the influence of the church, our nation’s challenges do not stem from the church’s inability to convince unbelievers to behave like believers. Our challenges stem from the church’s inability to inspire believers to behave like believers.” Andy Stanley, “Not it in to Win it”, p. 129
- Recommendations
 - We don’t give public pronouncements or make social statements on political or governmental decisions.
 - We are called to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in truth and love to everyone and anyone who will listen.
 - We don’t take a stand on issues of the culture wars; we find where Jesus is standing and kneel to Him
- Recommendation is that Mark, on behalf of the Council, will write a response to the letter received from a member, and direct any further questions of a theological or biblical nature to the Pastors.
- Reminder about family meeting on Sunday, October 9th from 5-7 pm. A family style dinner is being planned. Childcare will be available with a separate meal provided. The meeting is for members and regular attenders of CGLC.

Pastor Angie’s Report

- Kick-off Sunday was well attended including new people.
- Strat Ops initiative was started for prayer with a monthly prayer focus, led by Glenda Schuneman

- Mount Carmel – 11 attendees. Awaken project is a “gap year” opportunity for faith formation. September – November, weekly lectures available for free to the public.
- Opportunity to become a mission partner with Mount Carmel
- Advent devotionals are being prepared
- Advent weekly retreats will be led by Chris LePoutre at the end of each week
- Advent Vespers will be held on first Sunday of Advent

Children’s Ministry – presented by Wendy Fitzsimmons

- 50 kids at HisKids for the first Sunday
- Some classrooms are being merged to have better class sizes
- Discussion groups with parents scheduled on September 25 and October 2
- October 9th is meet the teacher after HisKids for parents
- Curriculum is called “Next Generation” for Parents of Grace including a video, guidebook, and discussion
- Digital survey for families with children 18 years or younger has been sent out
- Hype night – November 4th, 6-10 for 3rd -6th grade
- Family Fun night – September 29, 5:30 – 7 with LADC, Magnuson, and Community of Grace
- Retreat centers are being evaluated for February retreat
- Christmas program: December 17th rehearsal and December 18th for the program
- Prayer request to lift up the Core Team in prayer for new members to support Britta and Victoria

Students – Presented by Dan McMahon

- Refuge launch party was held on 9/14 and was well attended, including new students
- Andrew Kelly led the launch due to Melinda being out due to illness. Glenda led the prayer
- Refuge Rise and Shine on Sunday morning will start on 9/25 for students to have a great place to gather
- Multi-church worship night planned for 9/28 at Northgate church
- The Midnighter event will be on 9/30
- Confirmation interview volunteers were requested for 10/17 and 10/18. A signup sheet was passed around.

Service and Missions – presented by Mike Duesenberg

- Next Core Team Meeting will be held at Church October 17 at 6:30 pm, which is a change from October 10 to accommodate Hannah’s availability.
- Special payments made this year are: \$1,000 to WBL Food shelf Bearly Open sponsorship, \$500 to St. Katherine’s Orthodox Church for Ukraine support, \$1,474 to MN Adult & Teen Challenge, \$1500 sent to Mission of Hope to help rebuild a church in Source Matelas, \$1,000 to help start a church in Tanzania in memory of Amos Gimbi, and \$5,385 paid out for School Tools Drive.
- Special Contributions made this year: \$30,202.35 MOH Fund Raising (Haiti Gifts +Raising Hope), \$500 contribution made for Ukraine support, \$1,686.20 made to MN Adult & Teen Challenge.

- Food packing event for MOH will be November 11 at 11 am. Hannah will be sending out invites soon for volunteers.
- Balance for general service and missions as of 8/31/2022 is (\$9,717.76). Monthly contributions for General Service and Missions in August were \$2,184.00, which is \$ 1,466.00 below the monthly expense outlay of \$3,650.00. Year to date contributions through August are \$20,682.25, which is below year-to-date expense outlay of \$29,200.00

Seniors – presented by Ken Colberg

- ROMEO – met at Denny’s on 9/1/22
- JULIET – met at Rudy’s Red Eye on 9/5/22
- Women of Grace – 5 groups have formed and are off to a good start
- Fare for All – 9/9, more customers are attending
- Old guys Bible study is on Monday’s at 9 am
- Quilters meet on Mondays at 9:30 am and Thursdays at 6:30 pm
- Care and Wellness team will meet with shut-ins on 9/18

Worship – presented by Andy Hennig

- Andy met with Dan Lugo for lunch to discuss worship and groups
- Discussion regarding bringing back the sharing of the peace
- Bells “petting zoo” for people to try bells will
- Bells boot camp on Saturday October 8th, from 10-12

Adults/Welcome – presented by Dennis Engman

- Fall Catalyst, October 16th
- Womens gatherings have been successful, including “Mocktail” night
- Men’s social events starting soon

Treasurer’s Report – presented by Mike Mathisen

- Reviewed YTD financials
- Reviewed Endowment Fund balances. The \$200,000 distribution that was authorized in August will occur in the next month.
- Reviewed Reserve fund balances
- Reviewed Canopy of Grace 2.0 update. Additional pledges have been received. The total estimated project cost came down to \$507,000. One piece of work remaining, the fireplace chimney will have metal to cap off and the fireplace will be disabled. Approximately \$124,000 of the roof project is remaining to be funded.
- Executive team is working on a rent assessment for Magnuson and LADC

Facilities – presented by Mike Mathisen

- Steeple will need to be cladded in the interior in the future, due to the cedar tongue and groove deteriorating
- Boiler has been ordered
- Hot water heater for staff room will be installed
- Playground completed by LADC

Secretary – no report

Vice President – presented by Mike Hamernick

- Offering room has changed to be across from the mailboxes, which is the new finance office.
- Reminder to check mailboxes

President – Mark Schuneman

- Offering for September – Dan is 9:00 Contemporary, Dennis is 10:30 contemporary. Mark – 9:00 traditional.
- Thank you to Council for helping with the breakfast on kickoff Sunday, September 11
- The October Council meeting will be moved from the 20th to the 27th.

Other New Business - None

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Sherman