

MINUTES of Light of the World Congregational Council

Meeting Date: September 30, 2015

Location: Light of The World Headquarters

Summary:

- I. **Call to order:** A standing council meeting of the Light of the World Congregational Council was held September 30, 2015. The meeting convened at 6:32 pm, President Ben Barker presiding, Jon Sahlin, secretary.
- II. **Prayer**
- III. **Roll Call**
 - a. Council Members in attendance: Ben Barker, Mitchell Weers, Rian Greseth, Jon Sahlin, Kathy Felch, Jeanne Schwartz, and Pastor Jenny Mason
 - b. Council Members not in attendance: Peggy Swearingen
 - c. Others present: none.
- IV. **Adoption of the Agenda** Motion made by Rian to approve the agenda, seconded by Kathy. No discussion. **Motion carried.**
- V. **Consent Agenda Items**
 - a. Reading of and Approval of the August 2015 Council Meeting. Motion made by Ben to waive the reading of the August Minutes and approve as written, seconded. **Motion carried.**
- VI. **Scripture**
 - a. Topic: Hurt, help, and love.
 - b. Scripture: Romans 8 24 – 28
 - c. Reading: A story from the book *Spiritual Literacy*
- VII. **Treasurer's Report**
 - a. YTD and our first month of the fiscal year was below forecast but not negative.
 - b. Operating income was \$40.
 - c. Contributions are below forecast for both August and September.
 - d. Rian will research why this gap is happening.
 - e. Jenny proposed sending a letter to members who don't use Simply Giving.
- VIII. **Unfinished Business**
 - a. LOTW 2 Goals
 - i. Net 8 households
 1. Kathy and Jenny will be calling people we haven't seen in a while (five families).
 2. Five family groups joining.
 3. Potentially current state is +2
 - ii. 11% financial growth 2015-2016 fiscal year
 1. Behind schedule. Rian to take a deeper dive to determine the cause.
 - b. Power of Community Council Position
 - i. Mitchell was tasked to activate the nominating committee.
 - ii. It was decided to wait and see how the absence of this position goes.
- IX. **New Business**
 - a. North Trail Gym
 - i. If we are going to use the third gym we need to pay for it

- ii. There was a motion by Mitchell to pay for usage of the third gym space. Seconded. Passed.
 - b. Big Give – Update
 - i. The congregation voted to support as follows
 - 1. 360 Communities – 33%
 - 2. Dakota Woodlands – 29%
 - 3. Greenleaf – 38%
 - ii. Jeanne schedule to meet with 360 Communities to see how we can built community beyond just providing money.
 - c. Marketing Committee
 - i. Requesting about \$1,000 budget for their identified action items
 - ii. Jenny also mentioned upgrading our signage
 - iii. We want to committee to focus on the following 3 priorities
 - 1. Social Media
 - a. Jenny recommends reaching out to Emmy for direction and guidance.
 - b. Also as Emmy about hosting solutions should we want to rework the existing website.
 - 2. Signage
 - a. Update the ‘sandwich board’
 - b. Ask the marketing committee to come up with a design and research potential costs (include phone number and website).
 - 3. Optimization (Local Google Page)
 - a. Also contact Synod to get our address searchable more accurately by city/zip. Jenny to take this on.
 - d. New Member Brunch – Attendance from Council
 - i. Was well received.
 - ii. We were not charged for using the space at Lord of Life but we’d like to offer them something financial.
 - iii. We’ll reach out to those who attending to try to gauge if this is an event we’d like to repeat.

X. Reports

- a. **Mission Leaders Report** (*full report attached*)
 - i. **Callout(s):**
 - 1. Proposing to do a local adopt-a-family as an Advent community project.
 - 2. Mission trip has been narrowed down to three destinations, will be determined by parents after upcoming church service.
- b. **Pastor** (*full report attached*)
 - i. **Callout:** Proposed Day of Reflection with facilitator Justin Grimm to discuss 1) who we are, 2) what we are here for, 3) who is our neighbor, and 4) what do we wish to be known for in our community. Proposed date/time: Nov 7, 9am – 1pm
- c. **Member at Large** (*full report attached*)
 - i. **Callout:** Expressed member concerns about infrequent and unposted office hours. There will be an effort by Jenny to determine and publish consistent office hours.
- d. **President** (*full report attached*)

XI. Council Meeting Bullets for Congregation

- a. We closed our previous fiscal year with a deficit of \$5,500, which was really close to our forecast Giving was less that we projected.
- b. We approved a congregational Day of Reflection for Saturday Nov 7th. More to come.

XII. Announcements/Recognition

- a. Thank you to Shannon negotiating cummnity ed a
- b. Jeanne for 1 yr work anniversary
- c. Wendy for recharge group
- d. Spark and confirmation teachers

XIII. Closing

- a. **Next meeting** – October 28, 2015, 6:30pm @ LOTW World Headquarters
- b. **Thanks be to God**
- c. **Adjournment** – Motion made by Jenny to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 pm, seconded.
All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Secretary
Light of the World Church

Date of approval

Light of the World Leadership Council Report

From: Jenny Mason, Pastor

Reporting Dates: September 2015

Items to report:

- SPARK and Confirmation began on September 20th and all groups are meeting in the 4th grade pod. Kudos to Shannon Shaw for working out this arrangement with Community Ed, which will save us a good bit of money each month, rather than the increase in expenses that we expected.

Here is the breakdown:

\$80 saved per month by renting the pod for 1 hour versus 2

\$80 saved per month by not needing the music room or staff work room

\$80 saved per month by not needing to rent 2 additional rooms for our new classes

\$80 saved per month by being charged a minimal fee for the entire pod (versus being charged per room rented, like other parties would be)

TOTAL saved per month: \$320 or \$2,880 per school year

We are also not being charged a custodian fee for Family Faith Night, which is a total savings of \$400 per school year.

Combined savings per school year: \$3,280!!

- Preparation of our six confirmands is underway for their confirmation on October 25th, and Ryan Basballe, Tabitha Alitz, and Cathy Peregrino are leading our new 7th-8th grade confirmation class.
- I had a good conversation with Tabitha Alitz regarding the need to focus on our new post-confirmation group rather than Young Voices for Change. She understood, and let me know that she is going to try to keep the group going outside of LOTW.
- As we are focusing on Old Testament scriptures through the fall, I have invited Rabbi Alan Shavit-Lonstein, formerly lead rabbi at Temple of Aaron in St. Paul, to teach and do the message in worship on October 11th. I think this will be a treat for the congregation, and a good opportunity to promote the 'out-of-the-box' things that LOTW is doing. As a 'trade,' I will be teaching a class for his new organization, called By The Rivers.

Membership Changes:

- The following families will officially join LOTW on October 4: Mark and Chelli Esser and their children Sophia and Vincent; Melissa and James Christiansen and their children Audrey and Alex; Tony Poulin (rejoining); Annie and Jeremy Kilian, and their son Jackson. We also received a letter of transfer for Emmy Kegler.
- The following families and individuals are visiting and may be interested in joining in the future: Diane Rollie and her mother Pat; Sandy Russell; and Michelle Hoffman and her daughter Jocelyn, friend of Liz Chermack. I have personally visited with all of them, and will stay in touch with them regarding their processes.
- The Broitzman family informed me that they have found another church that "met the full experience they were hoping for." (I think this means red carpet and an organ!)

- The Stangls' neighbor Natalie and her children were also in church again on 9.20, and may be interested in joining, but I have not had the opportunity to have a personal visit with them yet.
- We were also happy to have Liz Johnson and her boys, Dominic and Dylan, in worship again on Sunday, and they are planning to be back more regularly.

Proposal for a LOTW Day of Reflection:

I met with SPAS Assistant to the Bishop Justin Grimm, Director for Evangelical Mission, and we are proposing a day (half-day) of reflection for the congregation on Saturday, November 7th. The idea is to reflect together about our mission and identity as a congregation, asking three primary questions:

Who are we (especially at a faith level)?

What are we here for (our vocation)?

And who is our neighbor (who are we called to serve)?

I am still working on a venue and a budget for this event, and will bring the most recent information to our council meeting.

Preaching and Worship Focus:

- I am continuing to put more time into sermon and worship preparation. In October I will be working with Barbara Lundblad, professor of preaching, and attending a preaching conference at Luther Seminary from October 5-7.

My goals for the next 30 days (October):

- Continue to focus my time on preaching, worship preparation, and calling on visitors to LOTW
- Prepare confirmands for Confirmation Day on October 25th
- Work with outreach/marketing team to carry out new outreach
- Prep Kilian family for Jackson's baptism on Nov. 1
- Hold first joint youth activity between LOTW and Lord of Life
- Prepare for Advent worship
- Work with Vibrant Stewardship to recruit new members to team and prepare for Give to the Max effort on November 12
- Support efforts to end homelessness in Dakota County, especially reaching out to other faith communities

My goals for the next 30-90 days (November-December):

- Continue work on preaching and worship prep
- Continue to focus on meeting our visitors
- Support new efforts for post-confirmation group and re-CHARGE groups
- Work with Vibrant Stewardship to carry out a successful Give to the Max effort on November 12
- Support efforts to end homelessness in Dakota County, especially reaching out to other faith communities

Light of the World Leadership Council Report

From: Ben Barker

Current Role: President

Reporting Dates: August 26, 2015 to September 23, 2015

Relationship Building:

- One 1:1

Action item updates:

- Attended August Council Meeting
- Met with the Synod

Mission Work Plan - Council Leadership/Operations:

- No update

My goals for the next 30 days:

- Connect with one congregational member
- Follow-up on Work Plan Action Items
- Focus on Goal #2 - Growth

My goals for the next 30-60 days:

- Focus on Goal #2 - Growth
- Follow-up on Work Plan Action Items

My goals for the next 60-90 days:

- Connect with congregational members
- Follow-up on Work Plan Action Items

Light of the World Leadership Council Report

From: Kathy Felch

Current Role: Member at Large

Reporting Dates: August 26-September 23, 2015

Relationship Building:

- Met with 2 LOTW congregation members/families

Goals for the Next 30 days

- Continue to have conversations with congregation members
- Work with Jenny to keep our net gain matrix updated
- Attend new member brunch if needed with Jenny
- Support new groups forming for ReCharge

Goals for the Next 30-60 days

- Continue to meet with congregation members
- Work with Jenny to update our net/gain matrix

Goals for the Next 60-90 days

- Same as above

Items to report or discuss from conversations with LOTW members:

- No specific items at this time

Light of the World Leadership Council Report

From: Jeanne Schwartz

Current Role: Acting in the World

Reporting Dates: September, 2015

Updates on groups/committees I am currently on or overseeing:

Youth Mission Trip:

A number of options have been researched. We've narrowed it down to three options: Next Step Ministries in Milwaukee same trip as last year (\$369); Youthworks in Kansas City (\$279); Youthworks in Lake Traverse SD (\$289). There will be a meeting following worship on Sunday to decide which program to attend. Both Mike Huff and Cathy Peregrino have expressed interest in chaperoning again in 2016.

Summer Work: We've finished a busy summer of volunteering at Greenleaf School, Summer Loaves, The Sheridan Story, Community Gardens and Greenleaf Back to School project.

God's Work Our Hands: We mulched many trees at North Trail Elementary on Sunday, September 20.

The Big Give: The congregation voted to support as follows;

360 Communities – 33%

Dakota Woodlands – 29%

Greenleaf – 38%

LOTW's 8th Birthday Party -- Pot luck breakfast on September 13.

Fall Work Plans:

Community Garden will continue through October.

Greenleaf: Homework Help opportunities to volunteer.

360 Communities : I've set up a meeting with Sue Lewis, volunteer coordinator to explore the volunteer opportunities with them

Dakota Woodlands: We will be serving lunches on a regular basis (perhaps monthly) at this facility.

Advent Community Project: We need to decide if we want to make an international contribution through ELCA Good Gifts Program or contribute locally through 360 Communities Adopt a Family. I am also open to other suggested projects.