Roseau Evangelical Covenant Church

Congregational Meeting

30 April 2019

DRAFT

**Call to Order & Declaration of Quorum:** Tony Fichter- Leadership Council Chair

**Devotional & Prayer:** Steve Hoffer- Senior Pastor

**Kecia Stroot- Children and Family Pastor Report**

Annual NW Conference meeting: got to hear Mitch Haaby speak before ordination, and pray over him.

Kecia is on her way with Rachel Krahn to the ORANGE Conference in Atalanta, GA for our Sunday school curriculum. They are going to get more training.

On Palm Sunday the kids got to sing. Kecia wanted to have the kids focus on leading worship instead of entertaining, as the kids are just as much a part of God’s family as adults.

There are only a few kids coming to IGNITE this spring. The month of May is mostly off due to a busy schedule, but on May 29th the upcoming 4th graders are invited.

Kecia spoke at a women’s conference in Fertile recently.

Married People ministry: we are kicking off the summer with the “great date challenge” and ending it with a large group event.

Oct 12th-13th there will be a family therapist coming to speak.

**Rachel Krahn- Christian Formation Board Chair Report**

Bluewater is stressing online registrations, and there will be no Burger Bash because it wasn’t producing registrations and participation as was expected. There will be a bus service still for Bluewater, but they have to register as a camper online, and will have to register for bus service separate with our church.

This upcoming Sunday is the teacher appreciation Sunday. All helpers will be presented with thank you gifts, & there will be cake after to celebrate them.

Confirmation is May 19th, with an all church potluck to follow. This year we have 12 confirmation kids.

May 19th is the last day of Sunday School for the year. Although, Adult Sunday School will go until the week after.

We have had a lot of discussion lately about the lack of participation of Sunday School. There has been a low trend in the past couple of years. We are wanting to know the congregation’s feedback about why this could be happening. Also, we would like to have suggestions as to what we should change for our Sunday School program to help train up our children and get participation. In the next month, we would like to get suggestions (will probably use a survey), and will also take one on one suggestions. People should talk to one of the CF board members with suggestions.

Tony opened up the conversation right now to the congregation:

Dorris Miller- likes the survey option because it will reach more people and could bring this issue to the forefront in people’s minds.

Todd Pederson- concerns with Sunday school on weekends when people are traveling to see family that is out of town. Would like the curriculum to be available online in case the family is gone. Also, he would like to see some more continuity within the curriculum so there are clear expectations for both the parents, students, and teachers of what will be taught within the year. He brought up the possibility of a Christian education course more so instead of “Sunday School”, and have it on Wednesdays.

Rachel Krahn- she pointed out that the Community church did away with Sunday school all together. The catholic church has Wednesday church school.

Cindy Tangen- would like to have a clear scope and sequence grade by grade so that the entire is bible is being taught to reduce bible illiteracy. If we decide to do Wednesdays instead of Sundays, lets go all in.

Don Miller- when he taught Sunday school they ended up the last couple years there were stand alone lessons so they wouldn’t build up each week in case you missed a lesson.

Kecia Stroot- with Orange curriculum it’s on a 3 year cycle, so if kids go every Sunday, kids should be able to cover the entire bible within the 3 years, and it will start over the next 3 years.

Sheila Brinkman- this last year there was frustration because there aren’t any adults who are stepping up to help teach Sunday school.

Dorris Miller- when she was in the position of Christian education, they worked hard to keep the families in mind so families COULD and WOULD come. We need to work to make it accessible for the families.

Rachel Krahn- snacks in between Sunday school and church would be helpful for kids. Another church has a bunch of teachers who take turns teaching. Also, ORANGE does a good job to pull parents in to interact with the curriculum. Although, a downfall is the amount of “fluff” in the curriculum. It’s often stressful and hard to weed out some of the extra stuff to get to the biblical part of it.

Cindy Tangen- thoroughly supports Sheila’s comment

Yvonne Wensloff- she had an experience with the teaching only a couple weeks per year and found it not to be useful.

Pastor Steve- parents don’t make their kids come to Sunday school. However, they will make their children come to confirmation, all the kids that have families that don’t normally even go to church still go to confirmation.

Roger Helgeson- one of the reasons they joined this church was because of the children’s and youth programs. The kids still came to Sunday school even after confirmation. Families had church as a priority.

Todd Pederson-would love to send Sam to Sunday school but half the time there isn’t anything of substance being taught.

Kelly Christianson- are we utilizing the staff that we have for Sunday school? Should we combine 7-12 for Sunday school and be taught by Bryan, and lower grades being taught by Kecia?

Tony Fichter- talked about coming to church with the intention to serve, rather than to be served. One of our strengths in our church in the past was our number of quality volunteers.

Kecia Stroot- there is a negative spiral when the teachers put so much effort in to teaching, and only 1 student shows up. Because of this, it can be quite hard to keep teachers motivated.

Rachel Krahn- noticed with the exception of two families, none of the people who attend adult Sunday school have kids who go to children’s Sunday school.

**Sarah Johnson- Leadership Council Secretary Minutes Report**

-November 2018 Quarterly Congregational Meeting Minutes

Approved by Dave Anderson. Seconded by Yvonne Wensloff.

-January 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

Approved by Glenn Johnson. Seconded by Rob Stroot.

**Tony Fichter-Leadership Council Chair Report**

10 years ago we went through a workshop about what a healthy missional church is. We used the Veritos program to identify if we were a healthy church, a stable church, a critical moment church, or an at risk church. We went through the EPIC process, and did the Pulse survey. We identified as a stable church both in the first survey, and in the second survey, even after changes were made. Our goal is to be a healthy missional church.

In the past few years we worked together to create a mission statement which is as follows: “To Share the Love and Hope of Jesus in Today’s World.” Then we created a Values Statement: “Exalt God. Expand God’s Kingdom. Equip God’s People. Express God’s Compassion.”

A year ago, in April, the Leadership Council had a retreat at the church and really wanted to come up with a plan for our church. Last year at the retreat we came up with a Vision Statement that articulates what God’s will is for this church. We are currently in the process of doing a SWOT Analysis. After the SWOT Analyses, we will go through our organizational goals. We will be specific on what our priorities are, and how we allocate our resources.

The last piece of this is creating our strategic plan: this is a living, fluid document that we will always update and maintain so it stays active and relevant.

Pastor Steve then went over “Our Vision” that the pastoral staff came up with after the leadership council retreat. Lastly, Pastor Steve passed out “Our Vision” handout to the congregation to review at home. Tony would like the congregation to ponder & give feedback to this. We will have a discussion and vote on it at our next Congregational meeting in July.

**Steve Hoffer- Senior Pastor Report**

Danielle Reed was going to keep on as the custodian, but since has decided she can not. Megan Benson will be the new custodian.

Mark Stromberg was elected to another 4-year term as the leader of the NW Conference at the recent annual meeting in Grand Forks.

Also, the topic of human sexuality has been floating around in our denomination. There is a movement of churches in our denomination that would like to move away from our traditional beliefs. There are some churches, specifically in the urban (Minneapolis) areas that are in direct violation with our traditional beliefs. Marriage is between one man and one woman, and celibacy and singleness is a second. This issue will be dealt with on a national level, vs. our conference level. This upcoming annual meeting (taking place in June 27th-29th) will have a pivotal effect as they will be voting on this. Our church has 3 voting delegates, based on our numbers. Also, Mitch Haaby will be ordained at this meeting.

**Bryan Dickson-Youth Ministry Director Report**

FUEL students 7th-12th grade have been following the IMMERSE KINGDOMS series. It has been a great opportunity in youth group to teach these bible stories that are not commonly known.

SADER Meal- decorated an area to reenact a Passover Meal.

There are 3 HOUSE small groups on nights right now, including an athletes group. There are around 13-15 students that tend to go to this. This has been a great thing to incorporate as many kids as possible. There is about 30+ kids who participate in all of the youth programs.

The Easter egg hunt went well.

Bryan has been meeting with one or more students per week to fellowship.

The Mexico mission trip is being planned and we are fundraising. There are 14 total people going, with 9 students and 5 adults. We will continue to have once a month Mexico trip meals to fundraise. Also, a silent auction will start up this next Sunday. Lastly, they are sending out letters for fundraising and asking for prayer.

On May 8th, *The Case for Christ* movie will be shown. There will also be a girl’s night and a boy’s night in May.

The last Wednesday in May will most likely be the RAIL event for all of the Roseau Area Churches to kick off the summer.

**Todd Pederson-Treasurer Report**

Todd passed out the budget report. Nothing stands out. Things are going ok, but we are a little behind for our overall budget. Offerings have been down this year so far.

**Dave Anderson- Pastoral Relations Committee Chair Report**

The PRC meets quarterly with the staff. They then meet individually with each staff member. They spend time in prayer with them and encouraging them. The next meeting will be on May 21st.

**Kathy Brandt-Missions and Outreach Chair Report**

We currently have 5 missionaries that we support:

Right now we have plans for James Tang, from South Sudan to possibly come speak to the congregation in June or July.

Randy Bevis serves in different locations, and helps to start fish farms.

Kurt and Nanette Olsen serve in Lincoln, Nebraska with international students.

John and Darlene LeTexier serve in France.

Jason Stromstad serves in Alaska.

Last year 9 dressers were sent out to new moms in need. Nora Parrill is the contact for this ministry. This year none have been given out yet.

The Missions and Outreach Board will help serve and prepare the Mission Trip Fundraising Meals.

March is designated as the food shelf month. We hosted a food drive for 3 weeks, and donated $500.

The Easter egg hunt was a success, thanks a lot to Kristine! This year we bought 3 new banners for this event.

**Kelly Christianson-Trustee Chair Report**

We bought 100 chairs and ordered 10 lifetime tables.

We have requested bids for the Sunday school remodel project. Brinkman construction was awarded the job, and will start this week. The next thing the trustee board will be working on after the Sunday school remodel project will be the storage shed building. It’s possible that the $20K budget might be a stretch.

**Darrin Smedsmo- Deacon Chair Report**

Wednesday night is prayer night. Please come!

**Other Topics:**

Traci Fichter had a Bluewater update. Additional members were added to the Bluewater committee. This year Kecia and Traci will be working together to push the online registration, but will have more time to help facilitate with the families in ways other than just for Bluewater. 75% of the kids that go to Bluewater from Roseau are not from this church. There are 2 ways to register: online or paper registrations. Also, Bluewater is not just for youth! There are retreats for all ages.

Motion to Adjourn: Jan Herseth and seconded by Thor Didrickson

Closing Prayer: Steve Hoffer

Respectfully Submitted,

Leadership Council Secretary, Sarah Johnson

Leadership Council Chair, Tony Fichter