Roseau Evangelical Covenant Church

Congregational Meeting

20 August 2019

DRAFT

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

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

**Meeting Minutes from April Congregation Meeting:** Sarah Johnson- Leadership Council Secretary

**Tony Fichter- Leadership Council Chair**

Tony brought up the Varitos Pulse Survey that we have taken as a church in the past. He would like us to ask ourselves where we think we would be right now if we were to take part in that survey right now. All of us need to do better. We need to do better for our children, ourselves, and most importantly: God. We need to make God THE highest priority in our lives. Our church should reflect that.

We also need to be truthful in a loving way as we find issues in our church. We should feel encouraged to help make changes and to have important conversations when they are needed.

**Special Reports:**

**Kecia Stroot- Children & Family Pastor, Rachel Krahn- Christian Formation Board Chair, & Steve Hoffer- Senior Pastor**2019/2020 Sunday School Program Overview

Kecia went over the slideshow that was made which covers the following:

the Sunday School survey that was taken, the attendance chart, the future plan including the new curriculum, the plan for Sunday School highlights to help parents connect with their children’s weekly lesson, & the plan for keeping connections strong between the church leaders and families.

Rachel went over the new curriculum called The Gospel Project. She explained the different features, the goals of the curriculum, and the timeframe for covering the entire Bible. Rachel also went over the plan for the 3rd Sunday every month, Parent Connection group. The Adult Sunday School class will still meet every week during regular Sunday School hour. Our goal is to have at least two adults in each classroom. We still have a few spots open that we need to fill. Adults can sign up to teach for a season or for the entire year.

Kecia talked more about how we need to find a few more teachers. There will be a teacher training coming up for those working with children. A lot of this class will be able to be done online, but there will also be an in-house training. Also, at 8:30 AM every Sunday, there will be a teacher “huddle” to get ready for the week’s lesson.

Steve passed out a handout which explains the break-up of the tasks and responsibilities between the Children & Family Pastor, and the Christian Formation Board.

Questions & Comments:

-Mary Huglen thanks everyone for their hard work towards the topic of Sunday School.

-Dorris Miller wanted clarification on the job description of the Children & Family Pastor. Steve clarified.

-Jan Herseth wanted clarification about the teacher & student recruitment. She wanted to know if it was purely the Children & Family Pastor’s responsibility, or also the CF board’s responsibility. Steve clarified.

-Don Miller asked about the statistic regarding 44% of our kids attending 50% of the time. He wanted to know when that statistic had gone down.

-Karen Markstrom was wondering if there would be music that goes along with our curriculum for the kids.

-Rachel Krahn asked if there are any other ideas to help people feel connected as they are traveling throughout the year and unable to attend Sunday School.

-(Todd ) brought up the point that we should be focusing on the positives of coming to Sunday School instead of always bringing up the negative that people aren’t attending.

-Jill Helgeson brought up the idea of having a Sunday School podcast for people in the car on weekends.

-Nathan Acker asked how many kids attend the Sunday service, but don’t attend Sunday School. He also brought up having Sunday School during the Sunday service.

-Jodi Fichter asked if there are ways to show the videos that are shown at Sunday School, at home or wherever families are on the weekend.

-Nathan Acker brought up that kids today might be “on another level” than they used to be. They might want more mature content during Sunday School.

**Todd Peterson- Treasurer**

Todd went over the offerings vs. expenses this year through July. Right now we are running a bit behind in our budget, however we still do have money in the bank, and our projected expenses have been a little over our actual expenses, so we are not as low as we we could be.

However, starting in August we will be about 10% over budget on utilities. Also, there has been a number of repairs on the bus this year. We will also be over budget on the bus.

**Pastoral Staff Reports:**

**Steve Hoffer- Senior Pastor**

Steve reminded everyone of our all-church potluck & river baptism coming up. He also went over all of the ministries and events he’s been involved with.

There are 4 churches in Roseau that are without pastors. Because of this, Steve has become president of the Ministerial Committee.

There is a summary of the ECC annual meeting online that people can view if they would like.

Pastor Joe and Julie are down at the Mayo Clinic as Pastor Joe is being treated for cancer. He is receiving chemo and radiation 5 days a week. We need to keep them in out prayers.

Dale Carlson passed away this past Saturday. The visitation is this Thursday evening, and the funeral is on Friday. We need to embrace this family as they go through this tragic event.

Doris Miller has talked to Barb Carlson, and our church will be providing bars to the visitation.

**Bryan Dickson- Youth Ministry Director**

This summer there has been 5 small groups for youth. There was also a mission trip to Texas and Mexico. Upcoming we have 5 small groups still going, regular youth group and release time will be kicking off this fall. Bryan will be co-teaching the 6-8th grade Sunday School class. We will start fundraising soon for next year’s CHIC. There will be 2 youth who are being baptized in the river at our church’s river baptism. Bryan will be speaking at First United Church this Sunday. He is still working in his seminary classes.

**Kecia Stroot- Children & Family Pastor**

The IGNITE program has been going this summer. There have been quite a few kids who usually come to AWANA during the school year, that have been attending IGNITE this summer. Tracy has been doing a great job with Bluewater this summer. The fair tent went well this summer, as well as VBS. Kecia has also been meeting with about 4 different families this summer who have been going through some hard time. There have been Parent’s Night Out this summer, and there will continue to be throughout the year. The Ministry Fair is out in the lobby. Everyone should go and check the info. out. September 7th and 8th is the 125th Anniversary. We will have a free meal and a live band on Saturday. Mitch Haaby will be here to preach that Sunday. October 12th there will be a married people event. Kecia has also been preaching on Tuesday mornings at the Manor in Roseau.

**Board Chair Reports**

**Rachel Krahn- Christian Formation Chair**

VBS with the Baptist church has been going great. Next year we will be hosting it together with them again, only at our house. For children’s church this year, Pastor Kecia will be teaching 2 times per month. We are still looking for teachers for the other 2 weeks a month. Sunday September 15th is the first day of Sunday School. There won’t be a Sunday School picnic because of the 125th Anniversary the week before. Teacher orientation and training will be mostly online, but the in-house training will be September 10th.

**Kathy Brandt- Missions & Outreach Chair**

Kathy wants to thank everyone who gave to James Tang and his family while they were here visiting this summer. The fair tent went well again this year. Kathy wants to thank everyone who was involved. In August we did a short food drive for the food shelf. The potluck last week for Aaron Krahn went well. All of his info. is online. This fall we will be doing the shoe box ministry again. Also on October 20th we will have the Fall Fest and the Adult and Teen Challenge will be here then.

**Kelly Christianson- Trustee Chair**

Rob Stroot filled in for Kelly. The youth room is finished and looks great. We had budgeted $30,000 for the youth room, but we only spent about $17,000. Bryan and Kecia have suggested to use $2,500.00 for some extra technology in the room. Motion to approve Darrin Smedsmo and seconded by Brenda Acker.

$20,000 for a shed was approved earlier this year for a shed for the bus and van. However, that amount of money will not be enough to build the shed. However, we do need to re-shingle the north side of the church. That is estimated to be about $15,000-$20,000. The proposal is to forgo the shed project for now, and to spend that money on the roof instead. Motion by Todd Peterson, seconded by Glenn Johnson.

We need to start thinking about updating our bus. In the last few years we have spent just as much on repairing the bus as we paid for it. We bought the bus in 2011 for about $4,800.00. We need to start thinking about buying a new bus for this next year, and including that in our 2020 budget.

We also need to update our heating system in the next year. We have a number of different heating systems in our building, and they are not running very efficiently. We will need to include renovating this system in our 2020 budget.

**Darrin Smedsmo- Deacon Chair**

Darrin wants to encourage people to come to our prayer service every Wednesday evening. There will be another prayer service coming up soon. It will be announced in the near future.

**Additional Topics:**

We are interested in starting up the Men’s Bible study again this fall.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Todd Peterson and Seconded by Sheldon Espe

**Closing Prayer:**

**Next meeting:** Annual Congregational Meeting- Tuesday, December 5, 2019

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Johnson, Leadership Council Secretary

Tony Fichter, Leadership Council Chair