Roseau Evangelical Covenant Church

Leadership Council Monthly Meeting

26 March 2019

Present: Dave Anderson, Kelly Christianson, Steve Hoffer, Kathy Brandt, Darrin Smedsmo, Tony Fichter, Sarah Johnson, Rachel Krahn, and Todd Peterson

Absent: None

**Call to Order:** Tony Fichter-Leadership Council Chair

**Devotional & Prayer:** Darrin Smedsmo- Deacon Board Chair

**Meeting Minutes Review:** Sarah Johnson- Leadership Council Secretary. Motion to accept made by Darrin Smedsmo and Seconded by Steve Hoffer-Senior Pastor.

**Tony Fichter- Leadership Council Chair Report**

Tony discussed the next steps in the Strategic Planning Process. Tony, with Pastor Steve’s help, will create a power point to present the vision statement to the congregation. We are hoping to not only get the information out to our congregation, but to also get some feedback.

Next, Tony handed out a SWOT Analysis handout for LC members to take home and ponder. LC members will send back their anonymous, fair, and honest feedback. Once we get the feedback LC members will sit down and create a short-term, 5-year plan. After we, as a council, meet on this and boil it down, we will meet as a congregation to present and get further feedback.

Lastly, Tony led us through the 2019 Committee Appointments sheet, and a few clarifications were made.

**Steve Hoffer- Senior Pastor Report**

Both Bryan Dickson-Youth Ministry Director, and Kecia Stroot-Children and Family Pastor, have done a great job in their performance reviews.

Steve will be attending the NW Conference Regional meeting in Grand Forks.

Steve would like feedback on Financial Peace University. We also need to make a decision on where it falls for funding. We will be needing a new leadership kit that costs about $100.00. There is more interest in this program, so more sessions will be scheduled. The cost per couple is around $100.00. If couples go to 8 out of 9 sessions, they get refunded $50.00. There also is often water being bought for the meetings. Last year we spent around $380.00 for Financial Peace University, and it was coming out of the Deacon Board’s budget. The LC decided that in the future any money needed for Financial Peace University will come out of the Mission’s Fund, and will be a non-budgeted expense. There was a Motion to accept by Darrin, and Seconded by Kathy Brandt-Missions & Outreach Board Chair.

Next, we went over the Housing Allowance Resolution

There was a Motion to accept and add the Housing Allowance Resolution to the February minutes by Steve and it was Seconded by Dave Anderson- Pastoral Relations Committee Chair.

Steve brought up our church logo and envelopes/stationary. We will be getting a new church logo that is more streamlined and contemporary. Steve will pursue this by asking Paige Moser and Rob Kofstad to get mockups and prices. The LC will go over the options at our next meeting.

Next, we discussed the 125th anniversary of our church celebration ideas. There had been a planning/brainstorming meeting for anyone in the church interested in helping out. It was decided that there will be a giant potluck, possibly in our church yard, on a Saturday night in early September. We would continue the celebration the following day at the Sunday morning worship service. We also talked about the possibility of changing the name of the church, making it more user friendly, but we decided to wait on this.

Steve handed out the spreadsheet of the information we have in our church database thus far. This will be a fluid database that will need to be changed often. This info will be used for keeping track of members and attenders. Staff and leadership will be using this database to reach out to members and attenders for various purposes.

The new tables are in and are not Lifetime Brand. We bought them from the 4 Seasons Senior Center. The reason for purchase was because they were cost effective (only $50 vs. the $120 new.) However, as we are not happy with the quality, we will be reselling these tables and will get the brand new Lifetime Brand tables as originally planned. The Trustees will see this through.

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

Dave had no update. The next PRC meeting is May 14th.

**Todd Peterson- Treasurer Report**

First, Todd went through the March to date Financials Report. We are trending lower than last year for weekly giving. We are running over on our budgeted amounts on our custodian and our office assistant hours. Danielle Reed, custodian, and Kristine Dickson, office assistant, will be using time sheets to keep track of their hours in hopes to keep on budget. Building and grounds maintenance was also over this year due to snow removal. Utilities was also way over budget for electricity. (anything not on the electric heat) We could have REA come and do an energy audit to see what is taking so much energy. February was very low for attendance, as well as giving. Also, we raised $1,844.00 for the Bluewater Scholarship Fund.

Darrin made a Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report, and Kelly Christianson- Trustee Board Chair Seconded.

**Kelly Christianson-Trustee Board Chair Report**

Kelly gave us the 2019 capital projects update. They ordered lifetime brand chairs through SAMS Club. Dave Brinkman, Keith Markstrom, and Jody Nelson will be putting in bids for the new back room project. We would like it to be started and completed in June. Tony made a Motion to leave it up to the Trustees to decide whether or not to have church members bid on this project. Sarah Seconded the motion.

Kelly mentioned that the storage shed has not been dealt with since our last meeting. He also stated that he would like to put together a Building Maintenance Forecast in the near future. This plan would be a maintenance wish list to plan out things like: new shingles, windows, siding, etc. This will help our church be better equipped to make sure we have room for these types of updates in our budget each year.

**Darrin Smedsmo-Deacon Board Chair Report**

Darrin did not have any updates. However, he wants our congregation to be reminded that there is still Wednesday evening prayer every week.

**Kathy Brandt- Missions & Outreach Board Chair Report**

We have given $500 to the Roseau Area Food Shelf, and are in the middle of a food drive. We are also working on the Easter Egg Hunt coming up on April 20th. There are sign-up sheets in the lobby for volunteers at the event. We are also still in need of donations for eggs and candy.

We would like to get to know more about James Tang, our Covenant Missionary for South Sudan. Kathy has worked to get some information about him from the Covenant with no success. It would be nice to know more about him, as our supported missionary, so we can know some of his needs. We would like to know how we can be praying for him and how we can support him. Pastor Steve will ask Pastor Kecia to follow up with contacting the NW Conference to see if they can help. We would like to get in contact with James himself. Tony added that we are not obligated to support any of the assigned missionaries. Even though he is an assigned missionary from the Covenant, it was our Missions & Outreach board that picked him. We would also like to get ahold of Jason Stromstad so we can be in better communication with him. We would like to know more about how we can pray for and support him. Lastly, we need to update the missionary board in the entry of the church. There are a few missionaries who are still up on the board, but are no longer continuing their ministries. The Missions & Outreach board will take this on. We only support two missionaries right now regularly, however we do support others as needed.

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

We will NOT be doing VBS with the Baptist church this year because they found someone who wanted to head it up for them. However, we did both want the same curriculum. Our VBS is scheduled for Aug 4-8. It will be brought up to possibly go every other year with the Baptist church for who will be hosting. They will be checking with the Baptist church to see if they would be up for this.

Rachel updated us that there will be no burger bash for Bluewater because last year they felt it was not worth the effort. There was low turnout and registrations. Bluewater is encouraging registering online, but campers will still need to register with the church to sign up for transportation. There will be a message put up on the church website regarding this.

Both Kecia and Rachel are going to the ORANGE curriculum conference. We have budgeted for one more person to go, although no was has been chosen yet. There has been conversation about the Orange curriculum being heavy with activities per lesson. It is sometimes hard for the teachers to pick out what is most important to go over in the allotted time per Sunday school session. The CF board has talked at length about the teachers being intentional about pulling out the scripture portion of the week’s lesson. Most teachers are overwhelmed with the amount of curriculum that “could” be presented each week. It is hard to weed through all of the excess.

Lastly, the Sunday school kids will be singing at church on Palm Sunday.

**Other Topics:**

In regard to Bryan and Kecia not being in the LC Meetings, they will each be asked to write up a short synopsis that Pastor Steve will be presenting at our meetings.

**Next Meeting:** quarterly congregational meeting on April 30th

Closing Prayer: Pastor Steve

Respectfully Submitted,

Leadership Council Secretary, Sarah Johnson

Leadership Council Chair, Tony Fichter