**Roseau Evangelical Covenant Church**

**Congregational Meeting November  2018**

**“To Share the Love and Hope of Jesus in Today’s World”**

***Exalt*** God

***Expand*** God’s Kingdom

***Equip*** God’s People

***Express*** God’s Compassion

**Call to Order** **and Declaration of a Quorum** Tony Fichter - Leadership Council Chair

**Devotional & Prayer:** Pastor Steve

**Meeting Minutes Review**: Pam Iverson - Leadership Council Secretary.  The minutes compiled by Rachel Krahn in the absence of Pam were reviewed.  Motion to accept made by Dave Anderson Seconded by Sheldon Espe. Motion approved.

Presentation of New Membership Application Pastor Steve Hoffer

Todd and Liz Lund

Pastor Steve was happy to report that the Deacon Board approved membership for Todd and Liz and welcomed them as members of RECC and to our church family.

**Steve Hoffer - Senior Pastor Report**

Pastor Steve highlighted the past months activities some including the start of confirmation with 12 students in attendance who were given bibles from the CF board.  The start of a membership class in October, and that Yvonne Wensloff held a Dave Ramsey Money Smart live stream event recently at RECC. Steve also reported that after searching for a replacement for Denielle Reed’s cleaning position she decided to stay on adding that he was very pleased that she will be continuing. Pastor Steve also has held marriage counseling sessions, continues to serve on the Ministerial Association along with Oak Crest and Roseau Manor activities.

Pastor Steve reported that this fall the Acker family had shared that attendance was becoming more difficult due to some changes with their son Levi.  Pastor Steve, the Leadership Council, and the family discussed different options to assist the family. It was decided that Levi would spend time at Duane and Linda Espe’s home (grandparents who live in town) with two church volunteers to hang out with Levi while the family attended church.  Within a short time 25 people had signed up to help with this ministry.

**Bryan Dickson - Youth Ministry Director**

Bryan shared with the Leadership Council his past months activities including the start up of fall programs.  He and Kecia chaperoned the Bluewater Fall Retreat in October and a Refugee Simulation event at FUEL that included several adult volunteers.  Release time also started this fall with 12 students and Bryan reports that he appreciates Robert Brinkman’s help each week. FUEL will now be preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus with a number of activities set for December.

**Kecia Stroot - Children & Family Pastor**

Kecia has been leading the Ignite group 4-6th graders this fall with 15 students attending.  Kecia reports that about half of the students are from our church and the other half from the community. The group helped pack shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child.  Sunday School is in large group this fall. A Huddle is held before Sunday School for the leaders. Parent Huddle was held and the theme was Technology and kids. Monthly Married People E newsletter is sent out and offers tips for couples and a number of fall events took place including a large group activity and a Fall Date Night.

**Dave Anderson - Leadership Council Vice Chair / PRC Chair**

Dave reports that the committee members meet quarterly and they are putting together annual performance for Pastor Steve.  He reports that the next meeting is Monday December 10th adding that his group continues to pray for our pastors and those in leadership.

**Treasurer’s Report** **Todd Peterson**

Todd reports that the church is on budget through October, spending is under budget overall, and that as a whole finances should be in good shape going in to 2019.  Todd noted that the credit from the utility bill helped and was a total of a 5000 dollar credit from REC due to over billing (equipment issue) He reminded the congregation that this credit towards utilities will not occur next year.

**Dennis Ingold-Trustee Board Chair**

Dennis reported that the moving of the copy room is completed and has given more space to those working on projects.  He thanked the Trustees for their work on this project. Dennis added that he is also thankful of the work by so many of the trustees.  Dennis mentioned that Sheldon Espe is always on top of the shoveling on Sunday mornings and that so many do tasks that help keep the church going.  In closing Dennis said he has mixed feelings about his family's move but that it was the right fit for his family.

**Roger Helgeson - Deacon Board Chair**

Roger reported that the Flower Ministry that has been handled by Cindy Tangen will now move to the church secretary.  Meals have been organized and have been delivered to the Kofstad family. Roger also reported that the Deacon budget will be cut from $3,500 to $1,500 this year as the pattern has been that  funds were not being used as much as they had a number of years ago. Roger added that the church wide bible study would begin again after the first of the year.

**Darrin Smedsmo - Missions & Outreach Board**

Darrin reports that Fall Fest went well with Slavic Gospel Association, Roseau Food Shelf, and Covenant Group that supports and offers care to ministers in the Association receiving the funds raised from the event.  Other Missions and Outreach activities include Slavic Gospel Association Christmas Stars, and Missionaries Christmas Gifts.

**Rachel Krahn - Christian Formation Board Chair**

Rachel reported that Sunday School began in September and that it is for pre-5th grade and 6-9th grade with 10th -12th grade as helpers.  Rachel discussed the Safe Child Policies training that she attended in the cities with Kecia and that they came away with a lot of good information including background checks, how to recognize red flags, and much more.  Rachel added that Adult Sunday School continues and the Sunday School Christmas program will be December 16th with Kristine Dickson as director. Rachel thanked April Ingold for serving on the board adding that she will be missed.

**Other Topics:**

Tony discussed the continued need for technology in the church and how it has become a bigger part in most people's  lives. He stated that younger people are now helping and that CJ Fichter and Brandon Prothero will be splitting responsibilities for Lead A/V Tech.  CJ will be Lead Sound Tech which will include the sound system and band equipment and Brandon will be the Lead IT Tech which includes all computer, video, and network equipment and software.

Glen Johnson and Gregg Iverson have been lead ushers for many years and both have indicated that they would like to have leadership find replacements for them for the upcoming year.

125th Anniversary is approaching and the Council is looking for someone or a group to chair this celebration.

Nominating Committee has an upcoming meeting and over 20 positions need to be filled for the upcoming year.

Dennis Ingold Trustee chair lead a discussion on the proposed budget.  He reported that the 2019 proposed budget is 331,343.61. He then summarized portions of the budget and reported that not all committees would be receiving what they asked for.  Some of the discussion included merit based salary increase at 2.7 percent for pastor Steve and other staff and that the Deacon Board budget is less this year. Dennis also referenced a letter sent from Curt Peterson of the Chicago office/ NW Conference asking for 10 percent giving with 6 ½ National and 3 ½ to go to NW Conference.  Presently the percent given is 4.4.

Discussion was held on projects under capital budget.  These projects include;

New pole shed, proposed cost at this time listed at $18,000

Remodel of 4 most north classrooms to make one large multipurpose gathering space, proposed cost $30,000.

Purchase of new tables and chairs for dining room (proposed cost not listed)

Large group discussion was held on these projects.  Dennis and the trustees fielded questions and discussion of the pros and cons of having one large space in the Sunday School area rather than 4 smaller rooms.  Dennis added that anyone who had further questions could talk to the trustees and that a vote would be held at the annual meeting in January.

Next Meeting:  Annual Meeting January

Motion to adjourn was approved

Closing Prayer: Pastor Steve

Respectfully Submitted,

Leadership Council Secretary, Pam Iverson

Leadership Council Chair, Tony Fichter