

ROSEAU EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

Congregational Meeting

September 27, 2016

In Attendance: Nathan Acker, Kathy Brandt, Sheila Brinkman, Pastor Joe and Julie Elick, Tony and Traci Fichter, Roger and RuthAnn Helgeson, Pastor Steve and Mary Hoffer, Paul and Rachel Krahn, Bryan Lundbohm, Gary and Karen Markstrom, Don and Dorris Miller, Nora Parrill, Randy and Milly Prachar, Darrin Smedsmo, Pastor Kecia Stroot, Rob Stroot, Jan Carr, Todd Peterson, Bryan and Kristine Dickson.

Call to Order: Jan Carr, Chair

Scriptural Introduction: Pastor Steve Hoffer

Review of Minutes: August 30, 2016 Leadership Council Minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Pastor/Director Reports:

Pastor Steve Hoffer: There were 8 people that were baptized in the Park at the end of August. Twelve small groups are starting up for the Community Bible Experience (CBE) with over 150 participants. Continuing with mentoring and marriage counseling. Continue to serve in Roseau Manor and Oak crest. Getting ready for fall events.

Pastor Kecia Stroot: Ignite started in April. 21 kids attended last week. In Sunday School, they are participating in CBE (Christian Bible Experience) and will focus on the lessons/ scriptures from the week. Pre-K through 9th grade are starting off with the Orange curriculum. Pre-K through 6th grade start out in the sanctuary for about 30 minutes, where the main lesson is taught. Then kids split up in their classrooms for supplemental activists to support the lesson. The Orange Curriculum is explained in more detail on the wall entering the Sunday School wing.

The school “backpack program” for kids started last Friday. Kids that have a need for food on the weekends, in grades Kindergarten through 3rd Grade, will receive a bag of food in their lockers at the end of the day on Friday. Forty kids are signed up to receive a bag already, and the Roseau Food Shelf is paying for the food. This list will hopefully increase as needs become known.

Youth Director Bryan Dickson: This was FUEL’s first year to go all summer long. There was a 30 student average in attendance. The theme for the summer was, “We Are More Than Survivors”. Summer ended and school kicked off with Gross Night. Now doing a series called Weird: What it looks like when we stand out for Jesus. The youth group is participating in CBE and meeting weekly in small groups with 3 groups already under way. SYATP (See You At The Pole) is tomorrow at 7 am. Roseau Youth Leaders have met 5 times to plan the event. Adult leaders are providing food for them. So far six 4th-6th graders are coming tomorrow for Release Time. Prayer for youth group is every Tuesday night. The first week of the month, youth come and pray. 2nd week, leaders are invited to pray, 3rd week is for parents, and 4th and 5th weeks will be ‘pray on your own’. Youth worship team is getting under way with

several adults helping the students in their area of expertise. Teaching Sunday School for 10th-12th grades, teaching Survey of the Old Testament.

Committee Reports:

Pastoral Search Committee: Tony Fichter, Chair

The search is under way and they have been meeting. Working with NW Conference. The opening is posted with the NW Conference as well as many other places. Big thank you to the Senior Pastor Search Committee for doing all the work and making it easy on this committee. Started with 30 applicants and are now down to 6. Trying to narrow it down to 2-3 candidates. This might be a little different from our approach to hiring a senior pastor in that they may bring in 2 to 3 candidates for us to meet, rather than just one.

Board Reports:

Mission and Outreach: Darrin Smedsmo, Chair

Operation Christmas Child shoebox is coming up. Todd Ellingson is coming in October. The board has a desire to include more of the church family in the mission board vision for outreach and to be more effective. Strongly welcome input from others with a passion for missions.

Christian Formation Board: Rachel Krahn, Chair

Just finished up a very busy season, especially since they have been reduced to 4 members. Thank you to all board members for their hard work. Raised \$745 in 4 days for VBS to buy goats. Had enough money to purchase one cow and two goats. Todd sent a video on Facebook of the family that received the cow. Training for Teacher Orientation/ Safe Children had 72 people who went through the class. Sunday School started September 18th with Sunday School registration as a first this year. This allowed us to obtain parent information and allergy/emergency information. Sunday School picnic was in the afternoon at the Malung School with Norsky softball following lunch. Orange curriculum is underway. Nursery is now available during the Sunday School hour. The three youngest classrooms have a teen assistant. Children's church is now located in the last room down the hallway since we have expanded the ages of those attending.

Bluewater Bible Camp Committee Report: Traci Fichter

Traci read a thank you letter from a Bluewater parent whose son had a great experience at Bluewater and was excited about his growth. 183 kids went to camp. 73% of those kids are not from our church. Some have a home church and some do not. Highlanders Camp had a waiting list to go to camp, which has never happened. Gave out 18 full or partial scholarships this year totaling about \$3,500. Transportation will cost us more next year with all the regulations. Heard great stories at the Bluewater mini-reunions.

Deacon Board: Nathan Acker, Chair

The board had an opportunity to bless someone with the crisis funds. Spend a fair amount of time in prayer, which continues to be a focus. Last Wednesday they had a full room of people. The fall is kicking off with CBE. Blessed with the great participation.

Mission Statement: Nathan Acker/Pastor Steve Hoffer

Looking at updating our mission statement. There have been some that have taken time to ask questions and hear more about the mission statement. Thank you to Pastor Steve for making the Mission Statement a priority.

The proposed mission statement is *To Share the Love and Hope of Jesus in Today's World*

This includes four main values/characteristics for God's people:

What is the Mission of **THE** Church?

75% Evangelism

25% Discipleship

12% Care of the needy

8% Missions (global)

What should the mission of **OUR** church be?

38% Evangelism

42% discipleship

8% Care for the Needy

8% Missions (global)

What **IS** the Mission of our church?

25% Evangelism

8% Discipleship

0 % Care for the needy

0 % Missions (global)

When asked, 21% could say our current abbreviated mission statement that's posted. No one could state that full version.

The goal of our church is to transition from a stable church, which is a dangerous place according to the Covenant, to a healthy missional church. There is a clear message in God's scripture to go and make disciples:

To share - share with other people the love (by relationship) and the hope (which is the good news of the gospel) of Jesus in today's world (have to figure out how to do that in a relevant way in our culture).

4 E's: Exalting, Expanding, Equipping, Expressing God's passion.

Why didn't Jesus just wrap up everything the first time, but decided to come back?

2 Peter 3:9 says "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance." We are to go make disciples.

Jan opened it up for Discussion: Julie Elick asked if there's fruit coming out of the church as a whole? Missions is a strategy all the time, bringing people into the kingdom. Pastor Joe said the mission of our church is supported in Acts 2:42-46. Don Miller said this is the first time he has seen it, and he thought it is good. He suggested that we maybe wait until the next quarterly meeting until we vote.

Pastor Steve said the new mission statement has been part of the last three sermons, in the news letter, and two separate question and answer sessions. He also thought we may want to consider voting on this today since the budget will be coming up in the next congregational meeting. The mission statement is not a magic bullet, but only as good as how well we own it and keep it central, so that we are focusing on it rather than getting off track. Don said the missions statement reminds him of our Behavioral Covenant.

Todd made a motion that we adopt the new mission statement presented and Julie Elick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Trustee Board: Rob Stroot, Chair

Routine maintenance summer. Continue to get suggestions on the clipboard in the library. Had a new transmission installed in the church van, and a new head gasket on the bus which came to about \$5,000.00 for both. The big problem that they didn't get to during the summer was the septic system. Have not had any problems the entire summer and it is thought that maybe the septic is not the problem, but that it was just a frozen float. Will verify this for sure at the next Trustee meeting.

Treasurer Report: Todd Peterson, Treasurer

Summer was rough and offerings were down. They were up in September, but we need to be watchful.

Budget Discussion: Rob Stroot/Jan Carr

September numbers are looking better, but are still running about \$800/week below budget. We are still fine since we do not have the Children and Family Ministry position filled at full-time yet. This is saving us a little. Right now, our savings is high from money continuing to be put into savings after our mortgage was paid off. Sheldon found a sheet on what the church should have in savings according to Dave Ramsey. Ramsey suggests 3 to 6 months operating

expenses plus risk management plus some set aside for staff issues. This would mean that our money in savings should be doubled, which the Trustees felt was too much.

If we use 25% of the Operating Budget to be set aside in an emergency fund, we should be putting aside \$75,000 with an operating Budget of \$300,000. After the new position is filled, this fund would go up to \$85,000. There are some things that the church could use this extra money for, such as a new roof, or having the parking lot redone.

Jan opened up for Discussion:

Mary Hoffer suggested that we use that money to go toward our mission statement. We could be more generous as a church to the community as an outreach. There are lots of opportunities for this money.

Doris said if we are looking at a full-time children and family pastor, we need to be careful about burning out attendance. More programming demands more work for families. She asked if we need more to do, and if this is the right time to look at adding this new full-time position.

Traci said she would love to see some of that money to go toward Bluewater and we always need scholarship money. There is so much more that we could do with and for Bluewater.

Jan stated that all of the things that we would like to do requires us to keep going in the same direction. We can either use that extra money to balance our out budget, or we need to step up our giving. Pastor Steve added that this is really undesignated funds in the budget. What can we do with that money that would be useful and responsible? We don't want people thinking, why should we give more money if there are a bunch of undesignated funds available?

Traci suggested that we keep \$75,000 as an emergency fund and then relocate the rest of the money to other line items. Is that flexible? Rob replied that the money is flexible to some extent.

Milly Prachar would like to see the church make our obligations and stick to our budget, rather than move money around to make it work for just a few years. This leads to failure in three or four years.

Julie Elick asked for a job description, and whether the homework had been done to support the full-time Children and Family Ministry position. Traci responded that we had tons of information in our previous meetings. Maybe we need to re-visit the numbers and statistics that were presented that helped us make that decision. We could have that available at the next congregational meeting or some other way. Pastor Steve reminded us that all the minutes from all the meetings are posted on our website. The numbers are all there and available if we want to look at them. Traci suggested that we could also put that in the eNewsletter.

Mary Hoffer related this to a personal budget and always having enough when the budget is tight. If this is God's plan, we should just go for it. He will take care of us and we can trust that God will show us the way. Rob said we are not really under our budget this year or in

trouble, but we are having this discussion at this time because we want to look forward and plan ahead. Todd said it would really help if we remember the church in the summer months. As someone who deals with the offering, if we are mindful of giving during the summer, we would probably be fine.

Tony Fichter said that God will use this increase in staff as an outreach. Children and families is how you get people to church and increase the flock. Naturally, when we have more people in the flock, the money will grow as well.

Karen Markstrom stated that our focus is outward and outreach, and this position will help in that outward focus. As we increase, our church will grow not only in numbers, but the facility will grow. Traci added that we really need to do something about the kitchen.

Karen commented that the Trustees can take care of that undesignated funds and have the tools to do so. Nathan thought the Trustees should figure out the number that they need in the emergency fund and give the rest to the Mission board to work with and plan around.

Darrin thought we are centering our conversation around what we think, which is not where the center should be. Bible giving is very straight forward in that we all give our 10% or more, and then this would not be an issue. Programming is not what the Bible is about. It's more person to person, and family to family.

Bryan Lundbohm added that we are not that far off. We could do direct deposits over the summer for those that are gone a lot. Pastor Steve asked if on-line giving was any interest by a show of hands. It's not free, but the automatic deposit is free.

Nathan said that maybe we need to get this information out and do a better job of conveying this to the congregation. Jan replied that Rob has given us the statistics on the percentage of giving for the members of the church. Doris thought that awareness needs go out to the congregation.

Jan closed the discussion by stating that we don't need to do anything more on this tonight. The great input by everyone gives the Leadership Council good direction and discussion for the next meeting.

Pastor Steve closed in prayer.

Next Meeting: October 25, 2016 Leadership Council

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Brinkman

Bluewater 2016

bluewatercovcamp.org

Youth Camps- June-Aug.

Scout A (entering 3-4 grade)	4 campers	1 scholarship
Scout B (entering 3-4 grade)	36 campers	3 scholarships
Trailblazer A (entering 5-6 grade)	6 campers	1 scholarship
Trailblazer B (entering 5-6 grade)	43 campers	3 scholarships
Explorer A (entering 7 & 8 grade)	23 campers	5 scholarships
Explorer B (entering 7 & 8 grade)	39 campers	2 scholarships
Navigator A (entering 9-10 grade)	2 campers	0 scholarship
Navigator B (entering 9-10 grade)	15 campers	2 scholarships
Highlanders (entering 11, 12 & Grad.)	15 campers	1 scholarships
Total campers	183 campers	18 scholarships

73% of the 183 kids were not from our church

What a ministry we have in our community!

Highlanders Camp- (entering 11, 12 & 2016 grads) had a waiting list!!

Scholarships- 18 full & partial scholarships given - \$3,580

Transportation- (bus/van)

16 trips (down/back) for 181 Roseau area & Baudette kids (@\$25/each)

1 camp (2 kids -Nav A/ during the Roseau Co. fair) rode TRF bus to camp

2 bus driver & 3 van driver (\$100/ trip) & 7 chaperone also helped

3 camps – needed a trailer (rented from Alive Outdoor)

1 shuttle vehicle rented (Church van used for MUUUUCE)

Mini Reunions

The Wed. after each youth camp each group & their families were invited to our church to:

Watch the DVD of their camp. Enjoy rootbeer floats. Talk Bluewater, see fellow campers again and share memories!

Thank you to everyone who helped with all our camps!

(9/27/16- Traci Fichter)