

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
Vision Council Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2023

Present: Pastor Dave Mesner, Jess Kramer, Cole Peterson, Seth Loeffler-Kemp, Dave Larsen, Karen Pagel-Guerndt, Cyndi Venberg, Lauren Nyenhuis

Not Present: Sara Hendrickson, Tim Kreft

Welcome/Meeting called to order at 6:30pm.

Devotions –Dave Larsen

Approve Minutes for [Vision Council Mtg. Minutes 8-21-23](#)

Seth Loeffler-Kemp motioned to approve; Cyndi Venberg seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report for June and July- Dave Larsen

- August receipts exceeded August expenditures by a few dollars and, assuming historical receipts and no unexpected expenses, we will end the year with a small surplus.
- Meeting our Ascend/Give to the Max goal, and a strong December are important.
- There are no known unplanned expenses.
- Fall and early winter Utility costs, and snow removal, are wild cards.
- There aren't any 2023 financial items, this month, that need our attention.
- Jess Kramer motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report; Karen Pagel-Guerndt seconded. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.

Ideas/Considerations for 2024 Budget- Dave Larsen

- Budget Committee would like leadership teams to submit budget needs/desires/changes, including narratives that explain connection to volunteer connection and engagement for 2024 budget. (i.e. New ministry? Changes?)
- Budget Committee would like this feedback by October 30 (Mike Klopp is chair; Christine could also take the information to the Budget Committee).
- Budget Committee would also like a narrative from each staff describing current and approximate time commitments toward job description components.

Mutual Ministry Update- Pastor Dave, Cole Peterson

- Glna Cole and Ken Loeffler-Kemp have accepted this role for the next 2-3 years. Rachel Perlinger and Joe Johnson are continuing from being on the Callahan Team. The purpose is to serve as a support for each staff member, individually and as a group.
- Discussions are confidential and will not be shared with Vision Council. They will meet individually with each staff member and then as needed moving forward.

Welcoming Parents/Family Members during Sunday School- Cole Peterson

- Cole explained the idea to have Church/VC members downstairs during Sunday School to "Meet & Greet" parents. It would be an informal reaching out activity right in our church.
- Katie suggested the following dates, 8:45-9:30:
 - October 1 (Dave L/Seth L), October 8, October 15

- Please reach out to Katie if you are willing for more details.
- Questions: Where is the nicer furniture? Should we let parents know about this?

LCGS Website Advisory Committee Update- Seth

- Seth met with Amie and discussed the “klunky” nature of our current website.
- Goals-
 - Clear depiction of LCGS Vision for someone church-shopping
 - Usable for current members to find what they want to know
- Next steps- Seth will contact website designers. Estimated \$2500. This could be brought to the Budget Committee. Estimated time to develop, train, and respond to feedback is 5 months.

Liaison Reports:

- Experiencing God LT: Seth Loeffler-Kemp
 - Latest meeting covered larger timeline, liturgical matrix,
 - Brian Fischer is interested in changing screen to TV screen
 - Eric Kaiser would like RIC to do testimonials during offering time
 - Budget considerations will likely include more music
 - Karin Berdahl will run more contemporary music starting this Sunday
- Reaching Out LT: Cyndi Venberg
- Nurturing Faith LT: Jess Kramer, Lauren Nyenhuis, Tim Kreft
- Resource Development : Cole Peterson (Memorial Funds), DaveLarsen, Pastor Dave (Offering Our Lives, Stewardship), Karen Pagel-Guerndt (Next mtg. Oct. 17?)
- Endowment Fund Board: Lauren Nyenhuis and Sara Hendrickson
 - Honduras request- Jayva Jordan requested funding to attend Latin American Consultation of the Lutheran World Federation

**Reminder that leadership teams do not have to wait for approval to spend money that has already been designated!*

Interest in Vision Council Retreat at VLM, Fall 2023- Cole

- Cole will communicate with Joel about staffing shortages and the potential of saving time by having it in Duluth.

Open Discussion

- Discussion about Children’s Chapel
 - Open Doors....a powerful message that provides “overhearing”
 - Sound must be able to be heard. Pr. Dave will ask Brian to turn up the sound.
 - Pr. Dave’s take-In the Rule of Benedict, people come to offer their life to God. One sin gets confronted: Grumbling. Grumbling destroys the community.
 - Pr. Dave- This is a delicate topic right now. The question Pr. Dave asked, “Are you happy they are here?”
 - VC would like to acknowledge the concerns of members by clarifying the purpose and expectations of Children’s Chapel.
 - Last Sunday was a specific situation. Vision Council sees this as a good problem to have. Teaching how to be in Children’s Chapel has not been given a chance. Nothing has been published about how to act in Children’s Chapel. Suggestions:
 - Keep the doors open
 - Teach purpose and expectations during Sunday School (ongoing)

- Put purpose and expectations of Children’s Chapel on screen at the beginning
- Have a speaker address Children’s Chapel at the beginning of church (in future weeks)
- Publish purpose and expectations of Children’s Chapel in bulletin
- Publish purpose and expectations of Children’s Chapel in constant contact weekly email
- Post purpose and expectations of Children’s Chapel
- Possibility of a TV screen live streaming
- For now, check on speaker to help in the “overhearing”
- When? Wednesday email and this Sunday. We need to honor the concerns of those who couldn’t hear and were frustrated.
- Lauren will communicate with Katie about this discussion.
- Motion by Dave Larsen: Remove Beth Lee and Pastor Tim Berdahl as authorized signers on the LCGS Youth checking account at US Bank. Add David M Larsen and Christine Whitcomb as signers. Retain Katie Rich as a signer. Cyndi Venberg seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Plan VC Meeting Dates/Times for Fall 2023

- October 30, 6:30pm Jess Kramer devotions
- (NO NOVEMBER MEETING- Possible November 11 retreat)
- December 11, 6:30pm Tim Kreft devotions

Lord’s Prayer

Cyndi Venberg moved to adjourn, Dave Larsen seconded.

Respectfully submitted by Jess Kramer, Secretary, LCGS Vision Council