

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
Vision Council Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2024

Present: Jess Kramer, Seth Loeffler-Kemp, Dave Larsen, Melissa Bergman, Lauren Nyenhuis, Janean Tucker, Pastor Dave Mesner

Not Present: Cyndi Venberg, Cole Peterson, Karen Pagel Guerndt

Welcome/Call to Order

Devotions by Dave Larson

Approval of February Minutes

- Dave Larsen moved to approve [February 12 Vision Council minutes](#), Melissa Bergman seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer Report: Dave Larsen

- Dave gave an overview of current budget statements. VLM lease will continue for another year at \$1,000/month. This was not planned for in our current budget.

Lenten Worship Update: Pr. Dave

- Thematically, Wednesday Night services have aligned with this summer's approaching National Youth Gathering. Powerful conversations have taken place; attendance have been lower than past years.
- Pastor Dave gave an overview of Holy Week, which begins next week.

Website Redesign Update: Seth and Jess

- Recap of meeting with website developer. We will start with creating a general logo design.

Continued Vision Council Orientation: Pr. Dave

- What are the cultural dynamics of what is happening in our congregation? Pastor Dave reviewed the Cultural Analysis of LCGS from 1980-2023. Observations include strong decline of attendance and increase in giving. Discussion of radical cultural shift. How will we respond to it? What are we called to do? We are all affected by this change, even if we are the ones coming to church.
- "Secular 3" Characteristics: Denial of transcendence, Autonomy of the self, and Acceleration (keeps us from going deep)
- What does this mean?
 - We need to offer transcendence.
 - We need to offer a life of meaning and of meeting God, a Christ-centered life.
 - We need to offer Sabbath time: personal spiritual growth.
 - We need to offer the presence of the kingdom of God today.
- Summary of Pastoral-size church vs. Program-size church according to Alice Mann (author of *Raising the Roof: The Pastoral to Program Size Transition, 2001*)

Liaison Reports

- Experiencing God: Pr. Dave Mesner, Janean Tucker (Wednesday April 3, 9:00am)
There is a candidate for Director of Music Ministry!
- Reaching Out: Cyndi Venberg (Cyndi absent)
- Nurturing Faith: Melissa Bergman and Lauren Nyenhuis (no new update)
- Resource Development: Seth Loeffler-Kemp (Memorial Gifts), Dave Larsen, Pastor Dave (Offering Our Lives, Stewardship), Karen Pagel Guerndt, Cole Peterson (no new updates)
- Endowment Fund Board: Lauren Nyenhuis, Jess Kramer (next mtg. Wednesday March 20, 4:15 library)

Liaison Assignments

- Waiting on Cole and Karen until the next meeting to see if they want to change the team they are liaisons to.

Collaborative Calendar Committee Report

- A good first meeting for CCC occurred with representation from all of the leadership teams. There was discussion around the many things that overlap and how to communicate these things with the congregation.

Vision Council Retreat (One day)

- Eric Kaiser has volunteered to lead this for the Vision Council. More to come!

Date for Upcoming Meeting

- April 22nd (Earth Day) 6:00pm Pr. Dave Residence (3514 Minn Ave)(Please note time change and bring an app if you like) Cole will do devotions.
- May 13 6:30pm Jess will do devotions.

Janean Tucker moved to end the meeting; Dave Larsen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Jess Kramer, Secretary, LCGS Vision Council