

Meet Christ. Be Christ.
St. Christopher's Faith Family Vestry 16 October, 2023

Attendance: Rector Fr. Randy Johnson, Senior Warden Karen Hartman, Junior Warden Barb Hovey, Madisen Crow, Patrick Ahern, Leslie, Norton, Eric Hedican, Ann Trapnell, Rich Pieper, Darlene Cross, Cheryl Bailey, Ross Ackerman, Tom Linder - Finance Team Member, & Clerk Robert Williams

Absent: None

Opening Prayer/Covenant: Fr. Randy/Ann

Additions to agenda: Karen

- Approve agenda Karen: How to set up or how to do a meal train when someone is in the hospital. Motion made by Ann and seconded by Madison; unanimous approval.
- Approve Sept. Minutes: Motion made by Darlene and seconded by Madison unanimous approval.

Team Reports:

Finance Pat / Tom: Income is slightly low for this month due to pre-paid pledges. It is just what we expect for the offerings, building use. We are getting more interest because we have more money in interest bearing accounts.

Expenses are lower than expected. We are spending less in most categories than planned. Facilities are lower than budgeted. Salaries and benefits are where they have been. For the year, we are spending lower on salaries & benefits.

For YTD (year to date), this is 75% of the year. We are substantially lower on salaries and benefits. We are spending a little bit more on facilities. Mission and Ministry is more because we spent all the amount already. The expenses will come out even at the end of the year.

On the Financial Position under natural assets, the general fund is (budget) surplus for the previous years. It is \$205,000 and it is still \$ 205,000. We are planning to spend the surplus, but it did not happen this year. The current period changes to assets YTD balance is \$ 50,700. It is a surplus for the year. It might be more at the end of the year. We have a fair amount of surplus to forward. The Finance Committee had a discussion on how much the Chinese Daycare should pay for more square footage. They need to be in compliance for licensing and to do so need more space. The space that would be best is not currently in use by the church. The Finance Committee discussed a counter offer from daycare.

The Finance Committee is working on a budget for work for next year. It was sent out with the Stewardship Packet. The final budget is not until January (2024). The final budget is approved by the annual parish meeting. Now we have the time for final inputs on the (final) budget.

Altar Guild Karen: Kathy (Ackerman) and Mary (Pendergrass) are looking for exploratory search for (Lenten) Pottery Chalice (set). Over the years, the current pottery pieces have broken or chipped.

Buildings and Grounds Barb: Nothing to add.

Children's Ministries Eric: Marion was wondering how we were at adding audio streaming services into the nursery. Currently, we are looking at audio into the nursery. Ross did not have a chance to look for a bluetooth solution. The hayride went well.

Communications Madisen: Nothing.

Garden/Garden Leslie: So far the giving garden has donated over 750 pounds of produce with more to harvest. The Green Team is planning to collect shoes. They are exploring the process of recycling (used) clothes. We are following the "Blue Zones" where people are living as centenarians. Sometime, the Green Team will upload a video about the Solar Panels and the Giving Garden to the Church's website.

Hearts and Hands, Meals on Wheels Cheryl: We have some ideas about people needing meal support. Allison Jensen thought of the idea of a Meal Train. A Meal Train is an online platform that organizes food support for others. All you need is the person's name, emails, what they like or do not like and duration (of the meals). When Ruth gets notice of a person in the hospital or sick, Ruth will ask if they are interested in receiving meal help. Ruth will collect the person's name(s) and telephone numbers of those that want meals and explain that someone will call them when things settle down. The persons' information will not be published. The only way to have people to access the person's information is through the email links for the volunteers. Karen & Fr. Randy will work on it.

Open Arms: Pat did a quick recap of the most recent Open Arms volunteer day in October. We helped to prepare about 1,000 meals. Another volunteer day will be planned for January 2024.

Funerals/Caterer, Special Gatherings Darlene: Nothing to add.

Fellowship/Social Activities Ann: Launch Event. They have launched the Event Gathering for the Event Fair. They were hoping for 12 -20 (summer) events. That will be a nice year of social gathering events. So far, they have about 10 events. The people have about 3 weeks to turn stuff in. It will launch when the Talent Table takes place.

Unfinished Business: All

- Welcoming Committee, publications: Welcome to St Chris Packet (see St Matthew's web), welcoming classes- steps going forward (communications team) - It was tabled.
- Stewardship- where we are at Barb: The packets were prepared and mailed for the Stewardship Campaign. The packet consists of a letter by (Fr.) Randy and the proposed budget. So far, we had 3 speakers. There will be 2 more speakers to finish the Stewardship Campaign. 29 Oct is the Pledge Collection Sunday. The Vestry will write thank you notes. Those who do not pledge will receive a telephone call in December.

New Business

- Organ: purchase/decommission/donation fund: From the September Finance Committee Meeting, we had a recommendation to purchase an organ using the two \$10,000 bequests and donations from the Congregation and to make up the difference from the PIF (Pooled Investment Fund) and Memorials. Last month, the Vestry had a presentation from the Organ Committee. The Organ Committee members are: Karla Cole, Josh Kattelman, Barb Hovey, Eric Hedican and Fr. Randy. We tabled the motion while waiting for more information from the Organ Committee. The committee recommended that we purchase the Rodgers electronic organ that we have had on demo since the summer. The purchase price of the organ is \$48,300 with 4 speakers and 2 subwoofers. We have already paid \$350 to have the organ delivered so the balance is \$47,950. The new organ is in the chancel with 2 speakers. They are sitting by the back wall, near the altar. The organ can have up to 4 speakers. For a normal Church Service, the current speakers are great. When the church has a lot of people, we will need the extra speakers. It will be better if we buy all of the speakers at once.

Peggy, our sales representative from Rogers, was asked about speaker placement. The four speakers will be mounted on the rafters near the altar. The 2 subwoofers will sit on the floor. Rodgers

technicians will determine the best placement for the speakers. The price of the organ will include installation of the speakers and any adjustments needed.

We do have the recent two \$10,000 requests minus 15% added to the PIF (total \$17,000). In addition, there are several dormant memorials that we could use to help pay for the organ. We will invite the congregation to donate money towards the organ purchase from November 1st until Thanksgiving.

Peggy talked to one of her associates about making a cabinet out of the old organ. His quote is \$12,000 to 15,000 to build a cabinet. At that time, we were thinking that the speakers would be in this cabinet. We now know that the cabinet would not hold the speakers but would be purely decorative. We decided we do not want the cabinet.

The Organ Committee suggested that we take 6 months to try to sell the pipe organ. Karla will help write the ad for the organ because she has the specs. We suggest asking \$15,000 or best offer for the organ with the understanding that the buyer will pay to disassemble and remove it. Karla will have specific days and times for people to see and try the organ. Ross Ackerman offered to help post an ad for sale of the pipe organ.

Darlene made the motion to approve the Finance Committee's proposal to purchase the Rodgers organ and seconded by Cheryl; unanimous approval.

- Flag: There's a discussion at Finance about different ways of attracting more people here. The Church welcomes all no matter what you: who you love, your political ideology and the fact you are a human being. We could have different types of banners by the entrance. In the past, St. Christopher's (Church) has looked into electronic signage, but the City of Roseville's ordinances are too complex to understand them all. Our sign is not well seen by the passers by. The Vestry decided to table the discussion about the flag or other type of signage.
- Daycare space increase: The Chinese Daycare pays \$13.22 per square foot. The current rent is \$3,600. Their rent will increase \$4,000. The daycare needs to rent more space. We offered 2 rooms (due to traffic- rooms 109 and 111) The current price of \$13.22 per square foot makes the total for the two rooms \$866/month. They countered for the 2 rooms at \$600/month. Total rent would go to \$4,066 from \$3,200. Vestry discussed accepting their offer because of the net increase in income and the difficulty of replacing them as a tenant (21 years duration) if they choose to leave. Motion to recommend to the vestry that the \$600/month counter-offer for the additional space be accepted with the provision that rent will increase after one year.

Cheryl made the motion to approve the counter offer. Motion made by Ross and seconded by Pat; unanimous approval.

Rector Report Fr. Randy: ISAIAH listening session was a hit. On October 12th, Kathy Ackerman was elected as a representative, for 2 years term, for the EMMA (East Metro Mission Area). It is in the East Metro Area. EMMA is one of the most diverse in the Mission Area. Fr. Randy will have a Baptism on Monday, 23 October, with a Special Needs Adult. On 29 October, we will finish up the Stewardship Campaign. All Saints' Day, we will be celebrating at the 12:15 Service & the following Sunday. Guy Fawkes' gathering will be All Saints' Sunday at 5:00 p.m. ECMN Convention will be 9 -11 November. It will be held at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, in Eden Prairie. Presiding Bishop Curry is scheduled to be there. We are not quite sure since his recent surgeries. Deacon Christopher is in the process of training for the LEM's (Lay Eurastic Ministers). He is planning on training the LEV's (Lay Eurastic Visitors). The St. Luke's study appears to be successful. Karla is working very hard on Advent, 9 Lessons & Carols, and other musical groups. On Wednesday, 11 October, we introduced the common cup. There are people who are not quite used to using the common cup yet. Some Sunday, we will introduce the common cup at the services. There are plans about doing a Healing Service. It

will be every 2 weeks or once a month. Fr. Randy might use the Chapel for the services. Fr. Randy is happy with the Stewardship Minutes so far.

Senior Warden Karen: Nothing to add except Karen wants to thank everyone for all they do.

Junior Warden Barb: Thanks to everybody for your input.

Announcements All:

- Shout Outs: The Organ Committee, Lyn Lawyer for leading the St. Luke's Adult Class.

Who would like to lead closing prayer at the next meeting? Karen

Motion to adjourn: Motion made by Rich and seconded by Leslie; unanimous approval.

Next Meeting of Vestry: Monday, 20 November 2023 at 6:45 p.m.