**RLC Council Meeting Minutes     March 17, 2016**

Present: Dave Hofeldt, Jeff Johnson, Jim Stark, Kevan Moulton, Jake Von De Linde, Vanessa Anderson, Georgia Nygaard

Staff: Pr. Lauren, Pr. Sara, David Booms, Laurel Hofeldt

Absent: Sara Mohn and Heidi George

Call to Order:      Dave Hofeldt

Opening Prayer: Pastor Sara

Review Agenda: Dave Hofeldt

**Ministry Team Liaison Updates:**

Nominating committee: list of candidates presented by Vanessa Anderson

·        Motion was made by Vanessa to approve the three candidates for nominating committee. Seconded by: Jim Stark No discussion. Unanimously approved

Life ministry: Kevan Moulton

·        Life Ministries has had a full year: 12 different events. Working to plan upcoming event

Stewardship: Kevan Moulton

·        Waiting for website development to potentially enhance stewardship

·        Plan things concurrent with 18 month plan

·        Considering offering stewardship style classes

Mission and Outreach: Jim Stark

·        Discussed funding support for bus

·        Discussed restricted gift policy

Adult Ed:

·        Emphasis on Art in the Church

·        Pastor Robert Vusik talks about the cross and art

·        Thinking about the 75th anniversary and ways in which to enhance the event(s)

·        Reaching out to get Sara Heinrich to take a group to Minneapolis Institute Of Art in conjunction with exhibit commemorating 500th year anniversary of Luther’s 95 theses

Youth and family: Jake

·        Proposed staffing changes were discussed and are creating excitement

**Financials:**

YTD Financial Update:     Laurel Hofeldt

·        Both expenses and giving continue to run below budget; net at end of February is $3000 behind budget.  But made up some ground, as at January close we were running net $11,000 behind.

Proposal for special appeals: Dave Hofeldt

·        Draft of policy for special appeals presented: tool to help manage number of requests made to congregation and avoid competing asks

·        Discussion was held to add language regarding non-monetary asks

·        Will be circulated to ministry teams and staff.

Intent to Give follow up: Laurel Hofeldt, Pastor Lauren

·        Lauren sent 125 letters to people who hadn’t yet responded, got roughly 30% response rate.

·        Current total of intent to give commitments to RLC operating budget: $858,277

·        Current intent to give to building fund $57,414

Outline of 2016 – 17 budget process: Laurel Hofeldt

·        Using intent to give as a basis of creating the budget for 2016 – 2017

·        Council will get a first look at the budget in May

·        18 month Rooted in Grace Plan will be presented in May at roundtables, requesting input from congregation. Feedback from this will be taken into account for drafting 2016-17 budgets.

**Facilities Updates:** Dave Booms

·        Bus: M&O $6000 this year with $2000 slated for next year.  Endowment  $2000 this year, re-submit request every year because committee members change and need to weigh in.  Council has committed to fund half the annual cost of the lease (roughly $4000) using designated funds; if those funds are not needed this year, they can be carried forward in a restricted fund.

·        Carpet replacement: Roughly $45,000 for carpeted area in commons and immediately adjoining spaces.  Including room 45 classrooms and Great Hall would bring total to about $71,000 (best bid). Consensus that this would a good project to do as part of the Rooted in Grace Plan.

**Staff Updates:**

Children, Youth and Family staffing, Fall retreats: Pastor Sara

·        Proposed several changes to strengthen Children, Youth and Family staffing.

·        Julie Hanson to transition from Acting Director to Director of Children’s Ministry

·        Merge two part time positions into 1 new full time position with benefits: Director of Faith Formation.  Responsibilities to include coordination with Children’s ministry, 5th-6th grade, confirmation, youth band, others.

Motion made by Jeff Johnson to support changing CYF staff from 2 full- time and 2 part-time to 3 full-time staff with benefits. Dave Hofeldt seconded. After brief discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Call for Associate Pastor

A motion was made by Jim Stark to extend a settled call to Pastor Sarah Spohr to the position of associate Pastor. (A “settled” call is the formal wording for what is commonly referred to as a “permanent” call, as opposed to a term call). Kevan Moulton seconded the motion. The associate pastor title reflects roles in addition to Children, Youth and Family.  The motion passed unanimously.

Rooted in Grace – 18 month giving challenge: Pastor Lauren

Pastor Lauren presented an outline for Rooted in Grace 18 month giving challenge.  Preliminary outline of goals in the challenge (taken as a whole, not as separate items)

1)      Strengthen CYF ministry: $35K

2)      Address welcoming / fellowship needs, including facilities: $102K

3)      Return M&O funding to prior levels: $30K

4)      Budgeting for COL and benefit increases: $31K

Important part of plan is to discuss further with Stewardship, Finance, and Exec council, then solicit input from congregation in the form of roundtable discussions in May prior to drafting 2016-17 budget.

Good discussion ensued.

Motion was made by Dave Hofeldt to support the 18 month plan with a growth and giving challenge for this upcoming fiscal year culminating in our 75th anniversary celebration. The motion was seconded by Georgia Nygaard and passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: April 21, 2016

Closing Prayer: All