

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregational Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2016
11:45 AM

FLC Vision: Every generation experiencing the freedom of Christ.

FLC Mission: We faithfully honor Jesus by developing disciples to reach others with the light of God's hope and love.

Call to order

President Austin Adams declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 12:06 pm.

Opening Prayer – Pastor Phil

Distributed Church Strategy

Brian Weaver gave quick overview of distributed church strategy with high points of the timeline to make strategy happen.

Three big rocks:

Central campus - Renovations, staffing, capture worship service

Satellite - Find location (general location south Denton), source of funding (land sale, grants, and campaign for \$)

Funding campaign - \$800,000 above current ministry \$100K for campus, \$100K for satellite, rest to eliminate of debt and tithing. Two year campaign.

Good News

Austin announced that ELCA has committed \$100K for each church we plant. Bishop's office, ELCA and MIF had a call with Faith. The end result is that MIF has agreed to extend our mortgage payment to \$15K/month for three years. Initially was only until the land sells.

ELCA funded a grant \$30,000 to start when we call an associate pastor in 12 \$2500/month payments. Even with this, our current pattern of giving is about \$7500/month short.

Rusty's Conversation

Need additional pastor to keep us where we are, not just for Distributed Church Strategy. ELCA and MIF are "in", we need to be in as well.

Rusty is engaged in conversation panel pre-Assembly for pastors in mission area who might be considered for office of bishop.

Open Floor for Discussion

Dave Boldt – We've gone through rocky situations as a church and we've always survived. If we do nothing, we will certainly decline.

Q. Ray Kimbrell – what's up with property?

A. Nothing new. No activity at all. Austin ended the contract and changing realtors end of March.

Q. Janis Allshouse – timeline for associate pastor?

A. Start process in March and hope to have someone by July/August.

Q. Worship assistant?

A. Hire and part time.

Gene Davenport – clarify ELCA support two levels? One level is for staffing and the other is for the distributed church. Offered advice to suggest that we start a satellite in a school.

Q. Laura Talafuse – How is MIF support reducing payment?

A. Interest rate is unchanged, but there is more principal than interest right now.

Q. Pete Silva – Clear to Pete that we are putting step 3 ahead of steps 1 and 2. Initially thought that we would sell land off first to fund DCS. Sounds like we are adding more debt.

A. Not taking on any more debt.

Levity from Jeff Voight

Q. Debbie Glaeser – Question on way vote is worded. Sick of money.

A. Ballot is about resourcing ministry plan. About staffing. We need to fulfill ministry plan to sustain us here and now. Reiterate we are not taking on more debt.

Q. Gerry Reid – Changing amount of money going to MIF. \$8K not going to debt reduction. In his mind we are adding to debt by adding to timeline. Avoiding the debt.

A. Austin clarified we are not adding to the debt.

Q. Ballot isn't secret.

A. Rusty – we are not doing secret ballot. Let your yes be YES.

Q. Denise Harbert (?) – Google says there are 54 ELCA churches within 50 mile radius. Have we considered a partnership?

A. Yes. We consulted with bishop and ELCA director of mission. One potential strategy was to partner, but not recommended. ELCA believes this is the best way to go to help mission area.

Q. Laura Talafuse – gap of \$10K,

A. \$2500 will come from ELCA after we call a pastor.

Q. Kathleen Bower Gray – With the addition of another pastor, would hospital visits be taken back by the pastors?

A. Rusty does what he can. New pastor will help do congregational care.

A. Kim Silva – depends on care ministry – need an associate pastor to help guide us through hospital ministry. Stephen Ministry does not do that. Plug for a yes vote.

Gene Davenport – 8th congregation since they've been married. Everyone in this room is blessed. Says this after travel to 3rd world countries. When challenges come, we need to look corporately as community of faith. Take a step of faith, not a vote of dollars.

Q. Denise Harbert – Largest Anglo church, can we incorporate headsets for people of other languages to share the message?

A. Great idea.

Vickie Wagner – we have responsibilities as well to take care of congregation if we hear of others hospitalized. Don't look to the pastor. We need it to be a community. We need to own pastoral care. Not just that of the pastor.

Janet Davenport – asked to meet with Rusty after they started coming.

Closing Remarks

Austin has a plea to help Cub Scout Pack 2. They are looking for adults to help revitalize this ministry.

Ballot needs to pass by 2/3 vote.

Closing prayer by Pastor Rusty. Meeting adjourned at 1:21 pm.