

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Congregational Meeting Minutes

May 31, 2015

11:45 a.m.

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 called the meeting to order at 11:52.

Opening Prayer – Pastor Rusty Sullivan

Opening & Devotion – Austin Adams “A Moment of Truth”

Austin shared the story of Moses preparing the Israelites to enter the Promise Land. Moses sent out leaders to spy and gather information, after 40 days they returned with good and bad news. Because they were afraid, it would be another 40 years before they would be led by Joshua who saw the truth and trusted the Lord. What is our “giant”? It is our debt service.

Creating a Culture of Significance

Austin shared some reflections on how far we've come in the past 5 years. Attendance, giving and benevolence have increased – we are now a tithing congregation. Some of our significant ministries include music, supporting the church in Sierra Leone, Briarwood, Ebola Response, Habitat for Humanity, quilting project, partnering with FLDS, CCA, Stephen's Ministry, prayer and meal ministry.

Sustainability

\$1,148,495 is needed to fully fund our ministry plan. At the current rate of giving we will reach \$960,710. Giving to date is \$383,000, we need \$420,785 – our shortfall is \$188,000. We have 3 possible strategies to consider – “Scale Back, Tear Down, and Pump it Up”.

- Scale Back
4 areas of the budget – Operational (40%), Programming (7%), Mission Support (10%), Staffing (43%). The only area to cut that would make a direct impact is staffing.
- Shut it Down
Involves selling the entire property or just the 3.5 acres. Selling the land would cut the mortgage in half, but would not help us this year. Selling the entire property would net \$2.5 - 3 million, but would mean moving and closing the Day School.
- Pump it Up
We can achieve the level of giving necessary – \$6,250 increase weekly.

A deeper commitment to significance is required and it's not just about money.

Our Statement

"The ministry of the Good News that takes place in and through the congregation of Faith Lutheran Church is worth fighting for".

Q & A

A lot of good discussion and questions raised. Some of the topics included selling and usage of the 3.5 acres, refinancing or extending mortgage, individuals increasing % of giving, and how to increase mission partner growth. Most in attendance support retaining our staff and ministries, and want to "Pump it Up". Kari Voight explained the PushPay program that is being implemented and how it will make giving easier and more consistent. Holly Turnbow discussed her role as Connections Coordinator and the Seek, Stretch, Serve & Share icons. Kim Silva shared that the benevolence team has chosen 3 mission partners as recipients – Briarwood, Habitat for Humanity and ELCA Global Missions.

Closing Remarks

Pastor Phil Geleske shared what we have been challenged with in the past, where we were and where we are today. The challenge is never over, it never leaves – it's life. He reminded us that we are a strong and significant congregation, and God is with us. NT-NL Mission Area, Briarwood, and Faith have a strong partnership. Pastor Rusty said we should praise God for who he is. It's about commitment and being significant.

Closing prayer by Pastor Rusty. Meeting adjourned at 1:25.