

Council Connection for September 21, 2021 Council Meeting

Council approved the following

- Initial Funding for Hope South (see below)
- Easement Agreement with Fairway Christian (see below)
- Accept resignation of Shirley Eick, team leader of the ministry team On Our Own
- Approved Ginny Wilson as new team leader of ministry team On Our Own
- Mission Outreach may request an ask of the congregation for donations to Haiti with a match request of the Endowment Committee. Council will request that the Endowment Committee should honor this request.

Discussions

Opening remarks by President Kent -Working and Learning Council

- Reminded Council that when it comes to Council and Council's role in our responsibility (collectively) towards the congregation and the business of the church. Hope's constitution states the Congregational Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of the congregation. To lead the congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities...., to oversee and provide for administration of this congregation, and church finances.

Hope South - Pastor Jon-Marc gave Council a brief history of first building committee and how the new Strategic Planning Committee evolved.

- Going forward the concept is for a building that could be built all at once or readily staged based upon the developing vision and needs of the south. The long-term goal is to have a self-contained place to replace Everglades. A place to worship and gather. We are taking into consideration activities and gatherings needed for the present and desired for the future. There is discussion of an Activity Center that would be built first and located on a portion of the land we can't use for the church. The Activity Center would be a bridge from Everglades to fully operating on our property. The Activity Center would give us a real presence on the property. Enable Hope to have uninterrupted flow of ministry and presence.
- Introduced proposal for initial funding for Hope South Activity Center
 - Need startup money – see breakdown on Project Proposal. (\$30,000)
 1. Site survey \$8,000
 2. Building Design for Activity Center \$6,000
 3. Conceptual Land Use Plan \$6,000 (All of the above is work that needs to be done anyway and needed before we go to The Villages for approval. Then...)
 4. \$10,000 Construction Workings Drawings
- Money will come from Building Fund
- Bob O'Dell is Chair of the Executive Committee of Hope South planning. Bob went over the Executive Committee and Executive Committee Chair responsibilities.
 - Strategic Planning Committee has a communication committee, but the overall communication to the congregation is Council's responsibility.
 - Strategic Planning Committee is in communication with Church office. Both will be tracking events and activities to keep our tax-exempt status. (We couldn't get on property the first year so Hope Lutheran Church will receive tax exempt status in 2021.) This will be reviewed in 2022.

Receptive Easement Contract with Fairway Christian

- Bob O'Dell spoke to the history of the easement (common driveway between two churches).
- Sumter County Highway has begun the new construction which blocks off left hand turns going East onto Avenida Los Angelos. They originally proposed U turn lanes farther east. Hope and Fairway fought this. The Highway department, Sumter County Commissioners and project engineers eventually agreed to put in a lane opposite Fairway Christian for left hand turns. Each church will continue to require use of the other's property to access their own parking and facility.
 - Research on easement past agreements were inconclusive. New agreements were written with cooperation and coordination of Fairway Christian. McLin Burnsed attorneys were contracted to write the Easement agreement. The cost of \$800 is being split between the

two churches.

A town hall meeting is being planned by Council. The meeting is to convey gratitude, where we are as a Church, and direction of Hope South. Dates and times were discussed. **The town hall meeting will be on Sunday, October 17th at 12:30 p.m.**

A request from The Rock (ministry team), was discussed. It will be addressed by Pastor Jon-Marc, Rolf Moulton (Council Liaison to The Rock), and Fred O'Brien, The Rock Team Leader.

There was discussion on changing Sunday worship times. After discussion the consensus was that this is not a good time to make any changes.

Treasurers Report

- Gary reported that the General Fund had an excess of revenue over expenses of \$21,985.80 for the month and \$438,848.65 year to date including the \$223,707.00 that was recognized from the forgiveness of the SBA loan in January. This brings our total Operating Fund balance to \$540,976.89. The items on the Detail Comparison Report that were over budget were reviewed.
- Gary reported that he and Karen Barnes made a presentation to the Women of Hope on September 2, 2021, to request the consolidation of bank accounts making them consistent with all other ministries and making transactions more efficient and the financials of Hope more accurate.

PASTOR REPORTS

Pastor Jon-Marc

- The office staff is in the process of a digital clean up. They may need to close the office for a day to get this completed.
- New copier coming for the office. It will help us save money.

Pastor Bruce

- Food Pantry –Last month they had a slight loss of \$3,000, but overall, the income is more than the expenses.
 - The Pavilion at Lake Weir - they are still working on permits.
- H.O.P.E. University. Due to the illness of Pastor Piper, the fall schedule is being reworked.

Pastor Rani

- Lay Leadership Team has met to plan for phase two. It will be held on February 2, 2022. All three sites will be included, and the entire congregation will be invited. It will be from 10 to 1:30 and includes lunch.
- New ministry is starting-it is “Gatherings of Hope”. It will be more specific to people who have lost someone. The first gathering will be November 9th from 11:30 to 1:30. It will be a potluck with fellowship to follow – games. The ministry will be every other week.
- Men’s Breakfast – Our breakfasts will take on a new look starting next year. A new layout will be proposed with various topics each month. Details have not been finalized.
- Hope for the Future Student Scholarship team is planning for 2022. They hope to reach out to a school in the southern portion of our community.
- Synod news – new ministry emphasis for the Synod will be the promotion of a deaf ministry. More news to come.