Grace Lutheran Church Annual Financial Meeting

Sunday, February 4, 2024 - 10:00 am at Grace Lutheran Church

VISION BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Anna Welle, Chrissy Gast, Holly Dodds, Bill Hentges, Dan Johnson, Carl Chandler, Jan Anderson, Dave Jenkins

VISION BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Deb Corey

SECRETARY: Holly Dodds

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Low Jackson

MEETING ATTENDANCE: 78 voting members

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER – Anna Welle, Vision Board President: Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am with opening prayer.

MINUTES FROM 2023: Approval of Minutes from May 7th and Aug. 13th Congregational Meetings –

- ***Motion to approve made by Mark Hedin, 2nd by Barb Keller. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.***

2023 CONGREGATIONAL LIFE REVIEW – Anna Welle, Vision Board President

- Welcome to new staff – Will Weikle, Children, Youth and Families Director; Christine Klersy, Seeds of Grace Director; Scott Christensen, Outreach Team Leader (volunteer)
- 1014 baptized members; 19 adults and 18 children received as new members in 2023
- 10 Baptisms; 10 Funerals
- Average weekly Worship attendance: 258 in-person, 90 online
- Children: 2nd year of TrebleMakers (children's choir), Joint VBS with Lord of Life, 9 receiving 1st Communion
- Youth: 14 new Confirmands, Youth trips to Okoboji, IA, Christikon Camp, MT, Summer Festival at Gustavus Adolphus, Camp Wapogasset, WI; Youth and adults served through Appalchian Service Project in VA

2023 FINANCIAL REVIEW – Bill Hentges, Vision Board Member

2023 Income Recap	**Budget**	**Actual**	**Over/Under**
Contributions	$1,470,000	$1,398,352	($71,648)
Seeds of Grace Receipts	$ 665,300	$ 640,537	($24,763)
Other Receipts	$ 77,155	$ 110,592	$33,437
Total Receipts	**$2,212,455**	**$2,149,481**	**($62,975)**

Explanation of Income Variation from Budget: $40,000 in interest income through a Money Market account for Transforming Inside and Out; Seeds of Grace now receiving monthly compensation grants for employee retention through the state of Minnesota; Contributions were down 3% from 2022.

2023 Expenses Recap	Budget	Actual	Over/Under
Administration	$ 63,850	$ 65,226	$ 1,376
Worship & Ministries	$ 73,038	$ 58,228	($ 14,810)
Seeds of Grace	$ 74,300	$ 96,584	$ 22,284
Benevolence	$ 56,500	$ 55,600	($ 900)
Property	$ 658,428	$ 726,361	$ 67,933
Personnel	$1,198,203	$1,105,124	($ 93,079)
Additional	$ 90,000	$ 42,358	($ 47,642)
Total Expenses	**$2,214,319**	**$2,149,481**	**($ 64,838)**

Explanation of Expense Variation from Budget: $12,000 additional Capital expenses to repair roof leaks, doors, dishwasher, water softener, and HVAC; Seeds of Grace food costs increased by $13,000, also struggled to hire teachers with additional $30,000 in temporary employment. Generosity: Shared $72,000 through our annual tithe and noisy offering; Total Benevolence: $128,000 (over 9% of Grace's contributions.

2023 Financial Recap	Budget	Actual	Over/Under
Total Receipts	$2,212,455	$2,149,481	($ 62,974)
Total Expenses	$2,214,319	$2,149,481	($ 64,838)
Margin	($ 1,864)	**$ 0**	**$ 1,864**

Transforming Inside and Out: $1,576,304 pledged (154 pledges); Received in 2023 $542,581; Total received $1,106,174

Transforming Inside and Out 2023 Expenses	
Architect, Consultant, Land Survey and Testing	$302,430
Mortgage Closing and Title	$ 12,894
Sound Improvements and Phones	$ 60,732
Transforming Events	$ 567
Miscellaneous	$ 3,061
Donlar	$ 30,865
2022 Tithe from Transforming receipts	$ 55,804
Total Expenses	**$466,353**

Questions regarding 2023 Finances:

- What is Donlar? Donlar Construction is our construction manager-at-risk overseeing the construction project.
- No other questions.

2024 PROPOSED BUDGET – Dan Johnson, Vision Board Member

Proposed 2024 Income Highlights: Complete integration of Seeds of Grace budget into Grace budget; Previous Noisy Offering ministries are now part of budget; Continued Transforming Inside and Out contributions.

Proposed 2024 Expense Highlights: (Personnel) 3% merit-based raise given to staff; David Phelps moved from hourly to salaried; Budget includes full-time Children, Youth and Family Director for full year; Youth expenses are adjusted to more accurately reflect costs. Many benevolences are now budgeted, some using existing dedicated funds. Overall expenses are based on historical trends as well as known costs. Mortgage will begin when needed instead of through the full year.

Proposed 2024 Budget	
Total Budget Income	$2,107,900.00
Total Budget Expenses	$2,107,891.64
Expected Margin	**$ 8.36**

Questions regarding proposed budget: No questions.

Thanks to Tracie Russell, Administrator, and to the Finance Team of the Vision Board for their work in preparation of the annual budget as well as overseeing Grace Finances while Treasurer position is in transition after the death this past year of Gary Spielman, Treasurer.

APPROVAL OF 2024 BUDGET: ***Motion to approve 2024 budget as presented is made by Vickie Meade, 2nd by Scott Christensen. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.***

NOMINEES FOR SYNOD ASSEMBLY – Pastor Joanna Mitchell

Conference assembly is scheduled for Feb. 10, 2024 at Cross of Hope Lutheran in Ramsey to lift up names for nomination of new Bishop. Synod assembly is May 2-4, 2024 for Bishop election and other business at Lord of Life Lutheran in Ramsey. Grace is allotted 3 voting delegates and 1 youth delegate based on congregation size. Delegate nominees are Jan Anderson, Deb Corey and Rochelle Poore with youth delegate still to be determined. No discussion, no nominees from the floor.

Motion to approve this slate of delegates for Synod assembly meetings made by Mandi DeGrote, 2nd by Deb Stang. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

CLOSING PRAYER – Pastor Maria Markman

ADJOURNMENT: ***Motion for adjournment made by Joe Jackson, 2nd by Nancy Jenkins. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 10:26 am.***

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Dodds, Vision Board Secretary

Grace Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting

Sunday May 5th, 2024 – 10:00am at Grace Lutheran Church

VISION BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Anna Welle, Chrissy Gast, Deb Corey, Jan Anderson, Dan Johnson, Hayley Seide

VISION BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Bill Hentges, Carl Chandler, Dave Jenkins

SECRETARY: Hayley Seide

MEETING ATTENDANCE: 87 voting members

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER – Anna Welle, Vision Board President: Meeting was called to order at 10:00am with opening prayer.

THANKSGIVING TO OUTGOING VISION BOARD MEMBERS: Anna Welle, Bill Hentges, Carl Chandler and Holly Dodds.

PRESENTATION OF THE VISION BOARD NOMINEES: Mandy DeGrote, Chair of the nominating committee. Nominees included Michelle Busitzky, Doug Hanson, Ross Chambers, Julie Linaman, Anders Grafstrom, Sally McPhillips, and Chris Pace. Also, thanksgiving to outgoing nominating committee members Darren Yates and Jaimie Zupon.

DISCUSSION TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF HAYLEY SEIDE. Vision Board appointed Hayley to finish the term of Holly Dodds, who is now on staff.

OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE NOMINEES FROM THE FLOOR. No nominees were presented from the floor.

HANDING OUT OF THE BALLOTS. Prayer led by Pastor Joanna.

RECESS: **Motion to recess made by Vickie Mead/2nd by Lo Jackson. Motion approved.**

MEETING CALLED BACK TO ORDER – Anna Welle, Vision Board President: Meeting was called back to order at 11:27am with opening prayer.

PRESENTATION OF THE VISION BOARD NOMINEES: Mandy DeGrote, Chair of the nominating committee. Nominees included Michelle Busitzky, Doug Hanson, Ross Chambers, Julie Linaman, Anders Grafstrom, Sally McPhillips, and Chris Pace.

DISCUSSION TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF HAYLEY SEIDE. Vision Board appointed Hayley to finish the term of Holly Dodds, who is now on staff.

OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE NOMINEES FROM THE FLOOR. No nominees were presented from the floor.

HANDING OUT OF THE BALLOTS

ADJOURNMENT: **Motion for adjournment made by Victoria Bell/2nd by Mandi DeGrote. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 11:33am.**