

Deacon Minutes – Approved  
12 April 2016

Present: Mary Lancaster, Ishi Stackpole, Matt Armstrong, Pam Parker, Cindy Taylor, Ethan Funk, Teri Burgen, and Pastor Cable

Absent: Paula Willis, Gail Stewart, and Don Vande Polder

Opening Prayer: Ishi Stackpole

Meeting Opened: 6:30 pm

March's Deacon Minutes: Approved as corrected. Ordered to be sent out to the Deacons, Session and Office Staff.

**Pastor's Report**

- Book Study
  - New area of study will be presented next meeting.
  - Want something that looks at the heart of being a deacon.
  - Ritchey considering the book “New Testament Deacon”
- Mercy Fund
  - Members still seem to be hesitant about applying for needed funds
  - Ethan was asked, as new deacon, what his perception of what the Mercy Fund was for.
    - Considered to be used for big emergency needs only
      - What about parents that cannot afford school supplies or clothing for their kids?
      - Is the application intimidating?
      - Things that might be a hindrance: Pride, education, comprehension
    - **Action Item:** Ethan will fill out a “test” application and put his comments about the process in the answer sections. This will also retest the system's reliability.
  - Other suggestions
    - Bring Mercy Fund application link out of password protected Member Resources page to general website
    - Have conditional link so that nonmembers/regular attenders cannot continue to fill out application, but will be given information about Gashland EPC
- Office staff etiquette when requesting services
  - Show Grace and Patience
  - Be proactive
  - Give deadlines
  - Follow-up

## Team Reports

- **Mercy**
  - See attached report.
  - Hearing survey will soon be started with single question on the back of the attendance cards, followed by targeted questionnaire to congregation regarding hearing issues.
  
- **Helps**
  - See attached report.
  
- **Finance**
  - Ethan met with Phil and Ritchey
  - Ethan overseeing e-Giving
    - Meeting with Commerce Bank on Friday
    - Evaluating alternative methods of giving
    - Don't want to have fee/cost to church
  - Reviewed Policies and Procedures for Finance Team with Phil
    - Updated verbiage
    - Changed primary oversight of Finance Team to the Deacons
  - Offering has been excellent in January and February and is expected to be very good again in March.
  - Plan to update website so that opportunity to GIVE is more prominent
  
- **Property**
  - See report.
  - Suggestion by Ethan for mow team
    - Divide property into zones with specific responsibilities in each
    - Ethan invited to next property meeting to discuss ideas
  - Property team is requesting money received from MLC be directly diverted to the Property Team for ongoing projects.
  
- **Coordinating Team**
  - No report

## Old Business

- Mercy reached out to Outreach Team for joint meeting regarding ministry partnerships. No response. Item Closed.
- Re-shape
  - Mark Blakley should challenge those who need to take the Re-Shape
    - Send email with a link to get process started.
  - Pam, Matt, Mary and Teri still need to take the Re-Shape.
- Ministry Fair
  - Send information and pictures to Chris Stackpole.

- Deadline: 1 May 2016
- Finance should have an informational poster.

### **New Business**

- Ethan requested feedback and prayer regarding placing information/graphs in Link and in bulletin showing progression of church giving.
  - A visual chart/graph in The Link could provide an electronic link to the actual PDF report.
  - May be used to help educate congregation on offering culture.
  - Concern raised about distraction from worship if put in the bulletin.
  - Timing: monthly
- Question regarding the attendance numbers addressed.
  - May be helpful for chair set up and coffee preparation
  - Needs to be accurate
  - Chris Stackpole looking into cell phone check in, although attendance cards would still be available.
  - **AI:** Matt will contact Coordinating Team (Don Vande Polder) about contacting the Worship team and Helps to figure out ways to get the information disseminated.

### **WOW reports**

- After much prayer asking for specific things, Ethan received an answer in a powerful way. Has new job with Sunflower Bank as an Assistant Vice President of Small Business Banking Lender.
- Ishi has seen answers to her prayers for healing and restoration of relationships.
- Pastor Ritchey reflected on Mary Masters' Funeral and graveside service. The two services were a contrast of the suffering of her earthly experiences and the hope we have in the world to come. Mary's life was filled with struggles and frustrations in this life (even a tornado siren in the midst of the funeral) but the hope of the resurrection at the gravesite, and the serenity of that service, is a great hope for us all that the difficulties of this life are but for a season.

Closing Prayer: Pam Parker  
 Meeting adjourned: 8:20 pm  
 Next Meeting: 10 May 2016

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Taylor  
 Clerk of Deacons

Mary Lancaster  
Moderator