

Deacon Minutes – Approved
13 March 2018

Present: Mary Lancaster, Steve Stalder, Pam Parker, Cindy Taylor, Rob Stegeman, Teri Burgen, Ishi Stackpole, Debbie Ellison, Ethan Funk, Dennis King, and Pastor Cable

Absent: None

Opening Prayer: Ishi Stackpole

Meeting Opened: 6:27 pm (Combined meeting); 7:20 pm (Deacons)

February Deacon Minutes: Approved as written. Ordered to be sent out to the Deacons, Session and Office Staff.

Combined Meeting

- Elder Retreat March 2-3
 - Focus to discern what God is calling Gashland to do
 - John 17 Jesus' Final Prayer (Jesus is the High Priest of Prayer)
 - Matthew 14 Peter walking on water
 - Comfort Zone Exercise
 - What keeps us in the Comfort Zone?
 - Comfort, fear, past, familiarity, safety, friends
 - Why get out of the Comfort Zone?
 - Growth, adventure, forced or encouraged, challenge, relationships, something better is out there
 - Need to move out of comfort zone (start small and stretch)
 - God is pushing us out through prayer, relationships, experiences, confidence and conviction
 - Driving force of Retreat: "Everything for God"
 - 5 Mottos
 - Every member a follower
 - Every reason a prayer
 - Every person a seat
 - Every place a mission
 - Every neighbor a friend
 - Draft revised Mission Statement, Potential Tagline and 5 Vision Initiatives for 2018-2019 revealed
 - Connections
 - Gashland Elementary school
 - February meeting with Principal and Office Coordinator
 - Excited about partnership
 - Open to partnership and the Gospel
 - Would like Gashland EPC to pray over school at beginning of school year

Pastor's Report

- Chapter 10 “From Embers to a Flame” – Divided (will cover Q. 3-5 next time)
 - What resonated?
 - ...Christian leaders ALWAYS stop to pray. p. 150
 - Good leaders... p. 151
 - Learn from the past...don't live in it (move out of comfort zone)
 - Live in the present...don't accommodate it
 - Look to the future...don't wait for it
 - If you are a leader, anything you do by yourself is a waste of time. But if you perform your ministry with someone else, then everything you do becomes discipleship and leadership training. p. 158
 - Definition of a leader
 - A leader influences other to effectively achieve a defined mission together. pp. 151 and 155
 - Right thing, right way, right time, right reason
 - God is concerned about the motivation as well as the results
 - Biblical leaders: Nehemiah, Joseph, David, Peter, Paul, Moses
 - Leaders have failures
 - God will use you greatly after He has humbled you greatly
 - Need to depend on God
 - Training leaders
 - Education
 - Embodiment
 - Empowerment
 - Evaluation
- Encouraged by Retreat – God's presence felt
- Caitlin will now be responsible for Property Use
 - Has made improvements to the Facility Use Request Form
 - Found under Member Resources tab on website
 - Ministry Team sub-tab has been revised and allows recurring events (up to 6)
 - Able to Update and Cancel requests
 - Request sends to Caitlin's To Do list
 - Will begin use immediately; do not email requests

Team Reports

- **Coordinating**
 - See report
 - FirstTeam Refresher and Training

- New safety and response training
 - More training will be coming from Safety Team
 - Precautions
 - Awareness
 - Response (How to's)
 - Implementation Sunday with assessments to follow
 - Safety team looking into response to medical and mother nature events
 - Will be focusing on reviewing and formalizing Guidelines and Policies
 - Girl Scouts
 - 1st service week included cleaning the pews in the sanctuary and vacuuming the cushions
 - Teams can still submit projects before the end of March
- **Finance**
 - See report
 - Meeting scheduled for tomorrow night with Property Team to discuss to consider setting aside money for Property needs vs paying down debt before making recommendation to session
 - Overall, giving is up compared to same time in 2017
- **Helps**
 - No report
 - All is going well.
 - Volunteers are staying on.
- **Mercy**
 - see report
 - HelpNet
 - Still having difficulty getting members to sign up for “Service Bank”, which is a data base of gifts/skills that may be volunteered to help another in need
 - Also, need a co-leader as one of the leads has stepped down.
 - Deacons will help spread the word and put into practice Chapter 10 of “Embers to Flame”
- **Property**
 - No report
 - Discussed transitioning team leadership back under the umbrella of the Deacons with the active Deacon on the team taking the lead after a time of mentorship by the outgoing leader. Not yet accomplished. If needed, the Pastor, the Deacons or Coordinating Team are available to help with the transition. AI: Rob will talk with Tom about this transition and how it will move forward.
 - Ceiling tile replacement underway around the church

Old Business

- Team assignments
 - Debbie will be assigned to Helps
 - All other Deacons will remain on the same team
 - Ritchie to discuss role Ethan will assume separately
- Re-shape
 - Debbie has not yet done Re-Shape
 - Status of Teri's completion, unknown at this time
- Book of Order
 - **AI:** Dennis will resend an e-copy of the Book of Order

New Business

- **AI:** Ethan will be looking into reorganizing Deacon Fellowship.

WOW reports

- Answer to prayer and encouragement after Elder Retreat that Bonnie S. was talking with Natalie and Joshua and asked "How did you hear about Gashland" and they replied that they lived in the neighborhood.
- Emily has gone above and beyond with the help she provides making sure the Mercy Fund is being applied effectively and timely.
- Sermon on Sunday was a reminder of God's character. Nourishing care.
- Support of Palmer Maples on Sunday morning after 1st service following passing of wife Sue. Palmer also attended Men's retreat on Saturday.
- God Sighting: unexpected Thank you note from patient's parents.

Closing Prayer: Ritchey Cable

Meeting adjourned: 8:15 pm

Next Meeting: 10 April 2018

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Taylor
Clerk of Deacons

Ethan Funk
Moderator