

Deacon Minutes – Approved  
14 Aug 2018

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

Absent: Ethan Funk and Dennis King

Opening Prayer: Pam Parker

Meeting Opened: 5:48 pm

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

**Pastor's Report**

- Gospel Shaped Mercy by Stephen Um – Justice
  - Single word to describe this Session
    - Educational
    - Convicting
    - Reflective
  - Types of Justice
    - Penal
      - Punishes wrongs
    - Protective
      - Establishes laws that set conditions where fairness flourishes
  - Other thoughts on Justice
    - Justice needs to be undergirded and propelled by Faith
    - Fairness needs to be applied equally
    - Connection between Shalom and Justice
      - Justice is working toward the restoration of Shalom (making things right)
      - Do this as part of Christ's kingdom
  - Amos 5:21-23 is a powerful message on what God desires
    - Prescribed rituals mean nothing if one is failing to live out the reality of their faith.
    - Heart driven issue
    - Hypocritical practices (empty religiosity) are rejected by God
    - True justice comes from a Grace perspective not a law perspective
  - Who are we to show Justice?
    - Oppressed
    - Prisoners (not only those in jail, but those that may be housebound etc)
    - Blind/Sick
    - Sojourners (homeless, migrants)
    - Widows/Fatherless/orphans

- AI: Prepare to discuss Love and Mercy (Sections 3 & 4) for next meeting
  - Note was made that Segment 2 of Mercy (Session 4) is the same as Segment 2 of Love (Session 3).
  - Ritchey sent email to have this corrected
- Discussion on Sojourners using our Shelter and property
  - Recent “residents”
    - Myke has moved on to Independence
    - Bryan still using shelter
  - Concerns
    - Bryan has come in several times for Food Bags
    - 4 Complaints by neighbors about homeless using our shelter and property including one who will not let her children go outside to play
  - Actions already taken and options
    - Outreach already working on options
    - Been in contact with Jackson County Social worker
      - Does not think allowing Bryan to stay in shelter and continue to get food bags is the best plan
    - Try to connect Bryan with City Union Mission or Love, Inc.
    - Get advice/help from one of the officers that conducted our safety inspection who also is a Community Resource Officer trying to bring organization to the homeless population
      - Have asked for tools and resources to respond
  - How are we to respond with Justice and keep Shalom with neighbors and show love and justice to the homeless
    - AI: Mercy Team – Consider how mercy fits into the solution – what does it look like. Consider partnering with Outreach. Needs to be addressed fairly quickly.
    - May need Property component
      - Cameras
      - Signs
    - Brainstorm
      - Wisdom
      - Don’t look for easy way out
      - Don’t respond out of fear
      - How can we restore Shalom
      - Consider finding those in the congregation with a heart to minister to the homeless (re-Shape)
      - Respond in Love
        - Provide the help we can to allow the sojourners to get the help they need
        - Define how we can help
      - We have a responsibility to both the neighbors and sojourners
        - May be sacrificial
          - Cost, time, effort
        - May be messy

## Team Reports

- **Coordinating**
  - See report
  - KCPD conducted site safety survey.
    - Most of recommendations regarding exterior lighting and maintenance of bushes/plants
    - Recommendations forwarded to Property Team
  - KCPD will be conducting training session in late August/early September
    - Threat response
    - FirsTeam, staff and other appropriate personnel will be invited
  - IT has received approval to reconfigure and improve our Internet infrastructure
    - Improve security
    - Provide better wireless coverage to all areas of the church
    - Technology access to each of the classrooms
  
- **Finance**
  - No report
  - Mark Lancaster, as President of GEPC, has signed new mortgage
    - 5.14%
    - 5 year balloon
    - 8 year amortization
    - No penalty for prepayment.
  - Working on insurance
    - GuideOne has given GEPC 2 week rider to make transition
  - Per week giving up
    - Overall, falling a bit short of projected budget
  
- **Helps**
  - No report
  - Debbie brainstormed with Paula Willis because having regular meetings has been difficult to schedule. Each member is in charge of different section.
    - Considering e-meetings
    - 3 questions to be answered from which Debbie will construct monthly report
      - Any issues in the last month?
      - Any Event needs?
      - Any general issues you may need help with?
  - Conversations need one more couple for cleanup. Debbie recruiting.
  - The 4<sup>th</sup> week of Coffee Service has been filled with volunteers
  
- **Mercy**
  - see report
  - Very productive month

- Kay Bowen and Barb Lynn have volunteered to develop a Care Team
    - Includes visitation, calling and card/letter writing
    - Kay very organized and has whole plan set out
  - Sandi Walrod has joined the Mercy Team and is co-leader of HelpNet with John Russell
  - HelpNet has blossomed over the last month with plans and organization after meeting with John and Sandi
- **Property**
  - No report
  - Have had pre-bid meeting on roofing, project now out for bids
    - Bids due Friday
    - Work on roof hopefully by this fall
  - Collecting bids on painting Ministry Center

### Old Business

- Elder initiatives
  - Does your team play any role in the 5 initiatives
    - Asking...
    - Teaching and Applying...
    - Understanding...
    - Loving...
    - Training...
  - Ritchey sent out the full list and gave examples from Worship Team
- Reports
  - Reports are not getting turned in every month.
  - Session is not receiving reports that are not turned in before the Deacon meeting.
  - Reports are due the Sunday before the Deacon meeting.

### New Business

- Welcome Monitor in Lobby
  - Questions regarding use of Welcome monitors posed
    - Limited to 6 slides
    - Used to Welcome and highlight church wide events
    - May eventually use for highlighting missionary of the month
    - Is there an actual policy for use? If so, pre Caitlin
    - Currently being underutilized
    - **AI:** Referred to Coordinating Team
  - Discussion regarding CCB
    - Lots of potential uses for more efficient communication
    - Some features require read/write privileges, which are not currently possessed by those who may need them
    - Currently have IT team to free up some admin time
    - **AI:** Request read/write privileges from Coordinating Team

- **AI:** Invite Steve Moberg to come to Mercy Team meeting to discuss uses of CCB and to discuss needs
- Other communication issues discussed
  - Differences in what is relayed during services and what it in The Link
  - Admin has been talking about reorganizing The Link
  - Prayer concerns
  - Common Place Bulletin board often overlooked/missed
    - Consider reminders in the Link and during announcements
    - **AI:** Send Email to Caitlin concerning use
- Combined meeting 11 September 2018 at 6 pm
  - Deacons hosting
  - Ritchey will determine the program for the meeting
  - **AI:** Teri Bergen volunteered to organize meal

### **WOW reports**

- Gracie S., who has been having many medically related issues this summer, underwent successful surgery with removal of a benign tumor. Also, cause of many of her issues is treatable. Heading on to college this weekend as planned.
- God orchestrated matching of volunteer to calling with Kay B. and Barb L. Mercy team in need of someone to call on behalf of a church member at the same time a church member needed a place to serve. This led to creation of the Care Team headed by Kay B and Barb L, who have new, creative ideas for visitation, calling and writing to members in need.
- Sandi W. passionate about caring for others has made individual tea towels for all 13 teachers at Gashland Elementary school to begin the new school year off right.
- Mary L. witnessed a FirstTeam volunteer who clearly embodies the position by more than just greeting, but truly getting to know visitors.
- Memorial Meal for Marge Tuck was a very rewarding experience for Debbie E. in working with the families. Many visitors very appreciative of the attention to detail and the delicious meal. The visitors were very grateful.
- Pam P. remarked on the overwhelming gratefulness of a relatively new member who was in need of aid from the Mercy Fund for many financial burdens.
- Ishi relayed her struggles with a nonworking fuel gauge and a prompting from God to stop at a gas station just in time on her way to the meeting.
- Exciting to see how God is revealing himself at GEPC with growing teams, expanding HelpNet, having Gashland Elementary reach out to us with needs and us reaching out to the homeless.

Closing Prayer: Ishi Stackpole

Meeting adjourned: 7:38 pm

Next Meeting: 11 Sep 2018

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Taylor  
Clerk of Deacons

Mary Lancaster  
Moderator