

Deacon Minutes Approved  
9 May 2019

Present: Pam Parker, Debbie Ellison, Marion Lynn, Cindy Taylor, Steve Stalder, Jim Lorenzetti, and Pastor Cable

Absent: Rob Stegeman, Dennis King, Ishi Stackpole,

Joint Elder/Deacon Meeting

- Sabbatical
  - Purpose
    - Personal Rest and Renewal
    - Time with Family
    - Professional Development
      - Interest in Pastoral Counseling
      - Specific interest in mental illness
    - Film project
      - Ritchey authored
      - Ritchey's dad has the production company
      - Purpose to engage people about God's Sovereignty in a different way
  - Schedule
    - Ritchey's last sermon 19 May
    - Flying out to Texas 21 May
    - First week – solitude at grandfather's farm
    - Ritchey will send email with skeleton schedule
  - Need to protect Ritchey's time away
    - Michael and Melissa will filter Ritchey's emails
    - Mark will be the filter for Ritchey's text messages
  - Summer Sermon Series
    - Michael will preach on the 10 Commandments
    - Michael has been preparing for Ritchey's time away and will ask for help when needed
- Financial Discussion
  - Jim L. reviewed the last few months budget reports and has been discussing concerns with Phil about the report
  - Currently, available cash is below what is considered normal and is not where we want it to be, although not dangerously low
  - Reflection of decreased giving in the first quarter
    - Most teams are within budget
    - Property over budget due to increase snow removal needed this winter
    - Decreased attendance on bad weather days
    - Trend towards annual instead of weekly giving
  - Would like everyone to thoughtfully consider why giving is down and if there are some corrective actions that can be made

Opening Prayer: Pam Parker

Meeting Opened: 7:20 p.m.

- Quorum established.
- April 2019 Deacon Minutes: Approved as written. Ordered to be sent out to the Deacons, Session and Office Staff.

### **Pastor's Report**

- Love Thy Neighbor teaching
  - Gallup Survey of "How are American Christians Living Their Faith? Part II" from 2003 focused on Love of Neighbor

#### **Love of Neighbor: Beliefs, Practices and Characteristics**

*For each of the following statements, please tell me where you would place yourself on a scale from 0-5, if 0 stands for "does not apply at all" and 5 stands for "applies completely."*

% saying "applies completely"

I believe all people are loved by God, therefore I should love them too, regardless of race, creed, wealth or place in life.	76%
When I am faced with a crisis, I find hope from my faith in Jesus Christ.	67%
God's grace enables me to forgive people who have hurt me.	55%
I believe the community of true believers is Christ's body on earth.	55%
I am known as a person who speaks words of kindness to those in need of encouragement.	54%
I pray for non-Christians to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.	52%
I believe that a Christian should live a sacrificial life, not driven by pursuit of material things.	50%
I believe it is important to share my faith with my neighbor because Christ has commanded me to do so.	47%
God calls me to be involved in the lives of the poor and suffering.	44%
I allow other Christians to hold me accountable for my actions.	44%
I know my spiritual gifts and use these in helping others.	39%
I give my time to serve and help others in my community.	34%
My first priority in spending money is to support God's work.	31%
I keep my composure even when people or circumstances irritate me.	20%
I am known for not raising my voice.	19%

- Lowest percentages apply to action related love of neighbor.
- Matthew 22:34-40
- Why are we to love our neighbor?
  - It is a commandment and is inextricably connected to loving God
  - We exist to glorify God and loving our neighbors also glorifies God
  - Puts us in the right relationship with God

- Barriers
  - Sacrificial and can be messy
  - Inconvenient
  - Focused on personal plans and don't notice others
  - Judgmental
- Next Steps
  - See your neighbor and have empathy for his/her condition
  - Pray for your neighbor
  - Serve your neighbor
  - Share Jesus with your neighbor
- Walk in Bags
  - Clarification on the policy as there has been some confusion regarding a recurrent requester
  - Should not use current ministry supplies for ongoing needs
  - Policy is that one bag will be given without question; with the second request the requester needs to talk to someone on the Mercy team to assess needs
  - Current situation requires ministry talk to best help situation

### **Team Reports**

- **Coordinating**
  - No report
- **Finance**
  - See report and discussion during joint session
  - Further discussion on budget
    - Need to be aware of decrease but not frightened
    - Net loss of <6% of annual budget
    - <\$9000 below last year (~\$800/week)
    - Normal trend is to be behind in the budget early in the year with catch up at the end
  - Discussed online giving
    - Giving is an act of worship
    - May result in greater consistency in revenue throughout the year as it is not dependent on weather or vacation etc
    - Consider "how to" class on electronic transfer from bank (no cost) or other electronic ways of giving
    - Finance team will discuss
- **Helps**
  - See e-meeting report
  - Still need a replacement for Glenn Tott on Chair Team
  - The volunteer request sign up did not make it to the back of the communications cards
    - Was supposed to be every Sunday in the month of May
    - Debbie will compose sign up and Marion will deliver to Caitlin

- Re-shape
  - Marion talked with Mark about results
  - Have not yet gotten results from Emily
- **Mercy**
  - see report
  - Easter Egg Drop for College students
    - Poorly attended
    - May cut back on adoptions in the coming year
    - Senior summer social coming up in June for members over 70
      - Sign-ups to start soon
      - Will send invites to shut ins and provide rides
- **Property**
  - No report
  - Multiple bids have come in and reviewed for new cleaning company and it appears there is a clear front runner... should be voted on soon

### **Old Business**

- AI: Finance line item descriptions completed
- New Refrigerator for Fellowship Hall
  - No information due to property and coordinating not present

### **New Business**

None

### **WOW reports/Prayer Requests**

- Debbie had successful foot surgery with much improvement in foot pain
- Cindy's mom had medications readjusted after an unexpected trip to the ICU. Feels better than she has in a long time.
- Prayer request for Cindy's father in law who was admitted to the hospital over the weekend. Has pneumonia and several other findings that suggest other unexpected medical issues. Prayer for the doctor's in determining the correct diagnoses and strength and encouragement for Chris and his mom.

Closing Prayer: Cindy Taylor

Meeting adjourned: 8:55 pm

Next Meeting: 11 Jun 2019 @ 5:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Taylor  
Clerk of Deacon

Pam Parker  
Vice Moderator