

Deacon Minutes Unapproved
14 Nov. 2019

Present: Rob Stegeman, Pam Parker, Marion Lynn, Debbie Ellison, Jim Lorenzetti, Steve Stalder, Ishi Stackpole, Larry Anderson, Mary Lancaster, Pastor Cable

Absent: Cindy Taylor, Dennis King (clerk for concurrent Session meeting)

Opening Prayer: Steve Stalder

Meeting Opened: 7:20 p.m.

- Quorum established
- Welcome to new deacons, Mary Lancaster, Larry Anderson
- Sept., 2019 Deacon Minutes: Approved as written. Ordered to be sent to the Deacons, Session, and Office Staff.

Pastor's Report none

Study Love Thy Neighbor (JL)

- Brief introduction of study/review for new deacons
- Church attendance declining 2003-2019 based on Gallup Poll information
- Focus on millennial membership which has declined to 42%
- What can we do as a church to increase millennial membership?
- Discussion about "contextualization" of the biblical gospel to millennials--using social media, podcasts, the Lord's Supper, music, service projects oriented to serve the needs in the community
- Jesus and Paul "contextualized" the gospel to their listening audience by understanding their needs and addressing their needs with the gospel message.
- The gospel can address the needs of tech savvy millennial group who anxious, focused on the here and now, concerned about social justice and hypocrisy in the world, and are skeptical about what the future holds.

Team Reports

- **Coordinating** None. Dennis King was serving as clerk for the concurrent Session meeting.
- **Finance**

- Nov. 15 deadline reminder for budgets
 - Team working to finish the year with a strong financial position
 - Deficit down due to increased giving
 - Team plans to adjust percent for unpledged offerings back for 2020
 - Team urges all teams to be judicious in spending
 - Team is pursuing lines of credit for any unexpected and unwanted need
 - Team is in the process of exploring and implementing digital giving
- **Helps**
 - Reminder to all teams to request needs from Helps Team in advance of events
 - Some changes in FirstTeam members
 - Schedule for Conversations has been revised
 - Chair Team looking for volunteers
- **Mercy**
 - Budget submitted
 - Luncheon provided for pastors and staff during Pastors Appreciation Month
 - Turkey Treaters Project in progress; turkeys still available
- **Property**
 - Most interior lighting done; all will be done by Dec. 31
 - Parking lot lighting done
 - Rebates will cover approximately half of the cost of the lighting project
 - Pavement work near 81st Street to be completed
 - Team is working on the budget
 - Team can prioritize long-term/expensive projects; currently there is no way to finance these plans

Old Business

- One of the basketball goals in the Ministry Center needs repaired again.

New Business

- None

WOW Reports/Prayer Requests

- WOW reports were explained to new deacons.

- Cindy wrote that Emily Hermes did an awesome job playing the role of Rosie in the OPHS production of Mama Mia. She is a natural on stage with lots of character and a beautiful voice! Ellie was also part of the production in the ensemble and did a very nice job as well. She will be a lead player in the upcoming production of “9-5” in December in the Little Theater of OPHS.
- Debbie Ellison reported that many have stepped up to serve as needed on the Helps Team.
- Rob Stegeman reported that many men volunteered to help complete the lighting project

Closing Prayer: Mary Lancaster

Meeting adjourned: 8:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: 10 Dec. 2019 at 5:45 p.m. in the Reception Room