

Opening

Opening prayer by Chris. Devotion by Steve Junge: Servant Leadership - Mark 10:42-45.

Call to Order

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:30pm . Board members present were Steve Junge, Jacque Thole, Wendy Kropf, Nick Bass, Craig Dueker, Ethan Muench and Stefani Tanner. Also present were Lead Pastor Ben Johnson and Executive Director Chris Thomson. Absent was Melissa Woodruff and Beth Casady.

Consent Agenda and Minutes

November 19, 2024 minutes: Craig motioned to approve and Stefani seconded. Motion passed. Updated on status of the fall that occurred at CWAC. A claim was made on our insurance.

Reports

Sr. Pastor (Pastor Ben)

- Giving Tree: USCRI was given about 1 month's worth of needs. Raised \$10k for AIRTS. Urbandale Food pantry received about 1,000 lbs of food.
- Christmas Eve services: Services were very well attended. Considering a Christmas Eve service to facilitate those traveling.
- March 10th David Tucker with "Digital Parenting" will have a 2 hr workshop on a Monday night, 6-8pm, with a meal. This will tie in to "Anxious Generation" study. Nursery will be open, possibly a kid movie in the Youth room.
- Sydney working on increasing GDLC social media presence. She and Brenden are working on the new website.
- "Together for Good": Non-profit for single moms, serving these families before DHS needs to step into the situation. Considering an event similar to SMMO. Jenny, Penny, and Pastor Ben are meeting with their leadership at Together for Good.
- Design change to the Narthex to facilitate flow and access to Bible studies.
- Mission trip initiative is being revamped. Looking at possibly doing local ones first.
- Things are going very well with Pastor Christian. Pastor Ben will be delegating more responsibilities to him.

Executive Director (Chris Thomson)

- December Financials: Giving was over-budget, income increased over 2023, expenses over budget - but great month overall.
- Received bill in January for December snow removal. This caused Facility Budget spending to slightly exceed overspend approval given by Board.
- 2024 Overages were 2.58%, well below the cap of 5% that triggers a Voters' meeting.
- Giving in 2024 was 5.5% ahead of 2023.
- If giving in 2025 is equal to 2024 we will beat the 2025 budget by 1%.

Financials (Chris Thomson)

- Looking to fill the Facility Assistant position.
- Debt retirement: Chris recommends putting \$100k-\$150k toward debt. Board will discuss further at the February meeting.
- Discussion about putting financials on Connections page on a quarterly basis. May also include ways that donations are being used on non-financial reporting months.

Current Discussion and/or Action Items

Called Worker Housing Allowance

- No discussion/questions

Board Member Visibility to the Congregation

- Idea: Board members doing announcements or use announcements to introduce members.

Board Survey Discussion

- Will be discussed at the February meeting.

Congregational Listening Post

- None this month

Governing Board Member for Foundation Board

- Stefani volunteered to fill Martha's spot.

Housekeeping

Staff Birthdays: Karen (Jacque), Jolynn (Nick), TK (Craig)

Volunteer for February 2025 Devotion: Wendy

Next meeting will be February 18, 2025. March will change to March 25th due to Spring Break. April will change to April 22nd due to Holy Week.

Adjournment/Lord's Prayer

Steve adjourned the meeting at 8:25pm with the Lord's Prayer.