

Sarasota Community Church
Overseers Minutes
July 23, 2018 5PM
Green Room

“Befriending all with the love of Christ through community, worship and service.”

Members Present: Danny Remchuk (Chair) Karissa Miller (Vice-Chair)
Mike Gervasio Miriam Nauman
Nic King Dave Polen
Dave Kniss

Members Absent:

Pastoral Team Present: Pastor Roger Shenk James Read
Kevin Bowder

Pastoral Team Absent: Dennis Bontrager Shirley Good

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Danny Remchuk declared the meeting open at 5:11 pm.
- 2. Devotional:** Nic King opened with prayer preceded by a short devotion referencing Luke 5:1-11; Jesus understood the necessity of the mundane tasks of preparing the nets to catch fish. Likewise, Jesus is interested not only in saving us but also in helping us in our daily activities.
- 3. Minutes:** Danny Remchuk declared June 18, 2018 minutes pending approval.
- 4. Open Floor for Members Comments:** None
- 5. New/Unfinished Business:**
 - a) Report on Directors and Officers Insurance – James Read reported.
- 6. Reports:**
 - a) Pastor Roger Shenk reviewed his monthly report. (attached) “When I talk about change, I want to be clear that it is not about changing direction, but about making little course corrections to maintain our direction and picking up speed in the process. Some changes we plan for. Others we simply respond to. In all things we practice peace and hope, discerning God’s purpose and opportunities.”
 - b) Finance: James Read reported. At this time, we are at a net overage of over \$14,000 for the 2018 budget.

7. Committee Reports

- a) Finance Committee: Dave Polen reported.
- b) Membership Policy Task Force: None
- c) Pastor Roger Shenk reported on the Conference Affiliation Task Force: Ben & Sue Sprunger attended an Evana Conference. Ben sent Roger a detailed report.
- d) Pastor Roger Shenk reported on the Building Fund Committee: James is in process setting up funding raising projects during the winter season.
- e) Pastor Roger Shenk reported on the Security Task Force:

8. Recommendations:

- a) That the overseers approve the use of \$230,000 from the building fund to renovate the auditorium. **M/S/A - Danny Remchuk, DaveKniss (vote: 6-1 in favor)**
- b) That the Overseers approve the use of designated contributions to repave the parking lot. **M/S/A - Karissa Miller, Dave Polen**

9. Other Business: Danny announced his and Cameron's upcoming move to Georgia at the end of October. Danny will continue to serve as Chair of the Overseers until Oct. 31, 2018.

10. Executive Session: (None)

11. Closing Prayer: Pastor Roger closed in prayer.

12. Adjourn: 6:43 pm

Upcoming Events:

- Overseers, Monday, August 27, 5pm

Secretary, Nic King

Recording Secretary, Catharine Christner.

If you would like a copy of the attachments listed above, please email Danny Remchuk at dremchuk327@gmail.com

PASTOR'S REPORT TO OVERSEERS

July 19, 2018—Sarasota Community Church

Entering “Bithynia”

In Acts 16 we read that during one of Paul's missionary journeys, he and his companions “tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by...” It's hard to make sense of the Spirit not allowing them to preach the Gospel. Weren't they on assignment to “go into all the world and make disciples”? But it was apparently a temporary restriction because fifteen years later Peter addressed his first letter to “God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia *and Bithynia*, who have been chosen...” God closed the door to Bithynia, but later opened it up.

In 2009 I came to Sarasota with a vision for filling up this church building many times over with people who were newly discovering Jesus. I had a vision for how to change things in order to attract and engage unchurched and dechurched people. It was nothing novel; it's what most churches do who are successful at reaching them. And we did make some changes, but for various reasons decided that the timing was not right. It was humbling but we obeyed, and have seen God's purpose in it.

I now believe the Spirit has opened up “Bithynia” to us again. It is time for us to move forward with clarity and determination to fill this place with people who, right now, are living life disconnected from God. So we are beginning another season of change.

Changes

When I talk about change, I want to be clear that it is not about changing direction, but about making little course corrections to maintain our direction, and picking up speed in the process. Some changes we plan for. Others we simply respond to. In all things we practice peace and hope, discerning God's purpose and opportunities.

Such is the case with staff changes we are experiencing. And I believe God is saying, “Learn to be a peace receiving and sending.”

- **James Read** has now been on the job three weeks as our new Executive Minister. He is focusing on operations and ministries, with a demonstrable attention to projects that have been on hold, and to helping energize our worship celebrations. He is fitting into the staff culture well, as was expected.
- A couple weeks ago, following a prolonged period of prayer and fasting, **Kevin Bowder** heard from God that he is to transition out of his role at SCC and to start a house church. His official resignation includes the following statement: “I want to emphasize again how much I love SCC and how thankful I am to get to know you, the staff and everyone at the church! I believe that God is not only doing a new and exciting work in my life but I also believe that he is getting to do something big and exciting at the church! Just like God spoke to me on the Skyway bridge and told me to apply to the church, I now believe just as strongly that he is calling me to leave the church.” His last day will be August 17th, but he is open to leaving earlier if that would be helpful. We will work to facilitate a smooth transition so that attention to children and youth does not suffer. We are sad to see him go, but we celebrate his faithfulness in doing what God has told him to do. We pray blessing on him and Ashley, and their daughters, Aunalise and Sienna, welcoming them to visit anytime.
- This week **Bonnie Telinger** was offered a fulltime position with Ashton Elementary. She graciously offered to continue doing her current job as Communications Director from home during the evenings, but we felt that the position is best served by someone in the office. She will work at SCC until her start date at the school, training volunteer help prior to the start of her new job. She has

served this congregation loyally for seven and a half years, first as Children's Minister, and then as Marketing Director. We will sincerely miss her contribution to the staff, but we are at peace with her decision, knowing that she is excited about her job, and that she plans to remain part of this family.

- **Worship Minister.** With James giving attention to our systems, and with his relational style, we believe we can increase our connection with youth and children through high-level volunteers rather than immediately hiring a Families Minister. This allows us to accelerate our plans to hire a fulltime Worship Minister (planned for 2019), which we believe will add another connection point for the youth as well as all ages. We are looking for someone who will provide musically and spiritually engaging worship celebrations for both services. We anticipate this person being in their 20s or 30s, relational, and showing pastoral concern for people of all ages. This is a key position so we will move with patience and deliberation, following SCC's hiring policy, and ultimately bringing a recommendation to the overseers.

We also recognize an opportunity to change and improve our campus. We believe this is necessary to the fulfillment of our vision to make our church a place people of Sarasota feel like they can call home.

- This week the south **medians** are being completed with irrigation and sod.
- This week a comprehensive **surveillance system** is being installed per last month's approval. This will allow us to monitor all parts of the campus, including children's classrooms, to help keep children safe, and adults supported.
- We will soon be **painting the exterior** of the building and continuing to paint the **interior**.
- We are recommending (separately) an **auditorium renovation** with the goal of making it every bit as impressive as it was when it was built — for members and visitors alike.
- We are beginning to plan winter fundraising efforts for **Phase One of the Master Plan**.
- We are looking to repave the **parking lot** (separate recommendation) as funds are made available.

Community, Worship, Service

- Our worship service attendance is as expected for this time of year, but we want to see it grow. We do have a continuous stream of visitors who seem to respond favorably to their experience.
- We have planned a "Coffee with Leaders" meet and greet for August 20 so new people can meet informally with the leaders of the church.
- Nine Community Groups continue to meet regularly throughout the summer, including a new youth class that meets Sundays between services.
- The 4th Annual Chili Cook-off on July 11 was again a success.
- On August 25, comedian Anita Renfroe is here.
- On September 24-27 we are hosting a couple dozen pastors at the first *Multiplying Disciples* conference designed to teach the Global Disciples approach for our context.

Thank you for your prayers and partnership in this. We are facing our mission field together and determining to enter. Let's pray for faith, favor, wisdom, and great love.



Sarasota Community Church

To: SCC Board of Overseers
From: Roger Shenk, Pastor
Subject: Renovate Auditorium
Date: July 19, 2018

Recommendation:

That the Overseers approve the use of existing funds to renovate the auditorium.

Discussion:

When our auditorium was built in 1980, it was state of the art, designed to attract and inspire. After 38 years it needs to be updated as follows:

1. Replace the pews with theater seating, increasing comfort and capacity, and giving us the ability to host ticketed events.
2. Replace the carpet with stained concrete and aisle runners.
3. Replace the flourescent indirect lighting with dimmable LED down spots.
4. Remove the acoustic tile drop ceiling under the balcony, paint it black, and replace the direct flourescent fixtures with LED lighting.
5. Move the tech booth to a more optimal location as necessary.

We are asking to fund this from the account currently named "Youth Building Fund" which was cleared several years ago to be treated as our general building fund. An approval this month would increase the likelihood of completing the renovation prior our seasonal crowds, which will generate enthusiasm for planned fundraising efforts for Phase One of the Master Plan.

We believe the above changes are consistent with our vision to be a church that many people in Sarasota would love to call home.

Cost estimate to be provided at Monday's meeting.

Roger Shenk, Pastor
James Read, Executive Minister

Sarasota Community Church

To: SCC Board of Overseers
From: Roger Shenk, Pastor
Subject: Repave Parking Lot
Date: July 19, 2018

Recommendation:

That the Overseers approve the use of designated contributions to repave the parking lot.

Discussion:

The parking lot is in a state of disrepair and is not only unsightly, but dangerous. People have fallen and injured themselves. Our insurance company is currently being sued to pay for the medical expense of an elderly neighbor who fell while walking our parking lot.

For several years we have talked about the need, but has wanted to let construction traffic use the existing pavement and then complete the master plan renovation with a new parking lot. While this still seems reasonable, the need seems to be growing. Recently an individual volunteered to contribute to this need. We are asking permission to solicit additional contributions, and then repave whatever portion we are able to do, beginning with areas of most concern. We will take into consideration future appeals for money being planned.

This request is not for money, but for permission to solicit and spend designated contributions.

Roger Shenk, Pastor
James Read, Executive Minister