

# PASTOR'S REPORT TO OVERSEERS

*November 16, 2018—Sarasota Community Church*

## **Fall Generosity Offering**

As our winter church family returns, it reminds us that Sarasota is a place that many love. We are called by the love of God to love all who call this city home, whether permanently or seasonally. And it is a joy to do so.

In 1 John 3:16-19 we read: "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

On Sunday, November 25, we will collect our second of two Generosity Offerings for the year. Everything we receive goes to fund our mission of "befriending all with the love of Christ through community, service, and mission." Our spring offering brought in \$37,103. How has God blessed us since then? Might we exceed that?

## **Community Events**

We held our third annual Fall Festival on October 27. It again attracted families from the community and gave us opportunity to enjoy them as well as our giving our church family opportunity to connect outside of usual activities. It's a bit understated and doesn't draw huge crowds, but it is always an enjoyable event.

On November 14, we held our fifth annual "4041 Thanksgiving Dinner" where we gather with the churches who rent our facility, as well as our neighboring church, Community Bible Chapel. It gives us opportunity to demonstrate our unity in Christ as we celebrate what God is doing in each of our congregations. It wasn't as well attended this year as in previous years. We didn't promote it as early as we have in the past.

Such "Community Events" are designed to foster a greater sense of community, and they generally do that. However, they are not effective "outreach" events, meaning we do not typically see unchurched people come to our church following such events. We see these as a "gift given" to the community, not for what we get out of it, but for what they get out of it. Nevertheless, we want to be effective in giving them the greatest gift: fellowship with Jesus Christ and his Church. So, in this season of change, we are evaluating such events by their overall impact to our mission.

## **Hurricane Response**

Monday morning a group of five SCC volunteers left for Blountstown, Florida where they spent three days working with Mennonite Disaster Service to clean up after Hurricane Michael. This will be an ongoing need.

## **Campus Work Day**

We hosted a second paint day on Saturday, November 3rd, and with the help of some twenty people, we painted the west side of the facility. Thank you to all who worked so enthusiastically.

## **Master Plan Implementation**

We held a Church Family Lunch Meeting on October 21 to discuss options about what to do with improving our facility. The four main options under consideration were renovating the auditorium (new seats, lights, technology), repaving the parking lot, renovating the main restrooms, and phase one of the Master Plan (the scope of which is not defined, but is generally discussed as turning the south courtyard into an enclosed lobby, adding a west entrance where the current kitchen is, and building a new kitchen off the west end of the Community Hall).

There was good discussion with 133 in attendance. At the end we took an informal "post-it note poll" for people to indicate their first and second priorities. By first priorities we favored Phase One (59%), Auditorium (23%), and then were tied on Parking Lot and Restrooms (9% each). By second priorities we favored the Parking Lot (36%), Phase One (34%), Restrooms (21%), and then Auditorium (9%). The total opinions ((first and second priorities together) favor Phase One (47%), Parking Lot (23%), Auditorium (16%), and then Restrooms (15%).

While our bylaws don't call for a members' vote on such things, we do find wisdom in the congregation through such conversations. In response to this meeting, we believe the next step is to conduct a feasibility study to determine how much of Phase One the congregation is interested in funding. We do not think we should go into debt, but prefer to utilize existing building funds to move the project forward in a way that generates interest and additional contributions. In fact, if we do move forward with any portion of the Master Plan, we will need sizable contributions from those blessed to give in such a way. We are engaging this process with faith and humility, eager to see whether God has prepared our congregation with the means to restore this facility to the state of the art condition it was designed to be.

## **Budget**

James has worked hard to present a budget that is both realistic and forward looking. We hope to be able to add another full-time minister for 2019, and are open to the Spirit's leading in that.

## **Staff Credentialing**

I have requested of Lee Miller that Southeast Mennonite Conference begin the process of credentialing Dennis Bontrager, Shirley Good, and James Read as ministers here at SCC. Credentialing is not legally necessary, but is an expression of solidarity with our conference, and affirmation of our ministers. In the cases of Dennis and Shirley it is long overdo, the only excuse being uncertainty regarding our status with the conference and affiliation with the denomination.

Likewise, I have also requested that my own ordination with Mennonite Church USA (via Southeast Mennonite Conference) be renamed as an ordained minister of Southeast Mennonite Conference to reflect the separation of SMC from MCUSA.

May all Sarasota be filled with love, joy, and peace as many come to faith in Jesus Christ. And may Sarasota Community Church be filled to overflowing with the same. Amen.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross".

Sarasota Community Church  
Overseers Minutes  
November 19, 2018 5PM  
Green Room

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

**Members Present:** Danny Remchuk (Chair)  
Miriam Nauman Mike Christner  
Dave Kniss Karissa Miller

**Members Absent:** Mike Gervasio Nic King

**Pastoral Team Present:** Pastor Roger Shenk James Read  
Dennis Bontrager Shirley Good

**Pastoral Team Absent:** None

**1. Call to Order:** Vice-Chair Karissa Miller declared the meeting open at 5:00 pm.

**2. Devotional:** Mike Christner opened with a challenge to the Overseers to be encouragers of the church and opened in prayer.

**3. Minutes:** Karissa Miller declared October, 2018 minutes approved as distributed.

**4. Open Floor for Members Comments:** None

**5. New/Unfinished Business:**

- The date of December 2<sup>nd</sup> was confirmed for our annual meeting.
  - Both Danny Remchuk and Karissa Miller are unavailable to lead the annual meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - The overseers appointed Mike Christner as pro tempore to lead this meeting in their absence.

**6. Reports:**

- a) Pastor Roger Shenk reviewed his monthly report. (attached)
- b) Finance: James Read reported. (attached)

**7. Committee Reports**

- a) Finance Committee: None
- b) Membership Policy Task Force: None

- c) Conference Affiliation Task Force: None
- d) Building Fund Committee: None
- e) Safety Task Force: None

## **8. Recommendations:**

- **Recommend Overseer Nominees to Congregation**

After discussion of nominees for overseer ballot willing to serve on Board of Overseers for our December annual meeting, the following was decided:

- “Ballot to include affirmation of Mike Christner for 1 year term, filling out the remainder of the term he was appointed to serve in November 2018.” - M/S/A Miriam Nauman/Dave Kniss (Mike abstained)
  - “Ballot to include affirmation of Dave Kniss, Nick King and Joe Smerdel to serve 3 year terms.” – M/S/A Miriam Nauman/Mike Christner (Dave abstained)
- **Recommend 2019 Budget to Congregation**

After in depth discussion of two contrasting budget proposals shared by James, he was asked to prepare a third option to share with the overseers via email for consideration. Motions and approvals to be handled via email this week in time for budget distribution to the congregation this weekend.

**9. Other Business:** (None Scheduled)

**10. Executive Session:** (None Scheduled)

**11. Closing Prayer:** Pastor Roger closed in prayer.

**12. Adjourn:** 6:32 pm

## **Upcoming Events:**

- Annual Business Meeting, December 2
- Overseers, Monday December 17

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Secretary, Nic King

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Recording Secretary, Karissa Miller for Catharine Christner.

If you would like a copy of the attachments listed above, please email Danny Remchuck at [dremchuck327@gmail.com](mailto:dremchuck327@gmail.com).

