

Sarasota Community Church
Overseers Minutes
March 25th 2019

Members Present: Nic King, Miriam Nauman, Dave Kniss, Joe Smerdel Elizabeth Perez,
Jeremy Miller, , Nancy Sollenberger, Mike Christner

Members Absent: Mike Gervasio

Pastoral Present: Roger Shenk, James Read, Shirley Good,

Pastoral Absent: Dennis Bontrager

1. Call To Order: Mike Christner 5:10 PM
2. Devotional: Dave Kniss –The Holiness of God
3. Minutes: Reviewed and approved for February 26th 2019
4. Open Floor for church members: None Present
5. New/Unfinished Business:
 - Affirmation for Liz Lane to serve as Families Minister for Sarasota Community Church. Term to begin August 1st 2019
6. Reports:
 - Roger reviewed Pastor Report with Overseers
 - James reviewed January financials
7. Committee Reports:
 - Sabbatical Committee recommended approval for Pastor Rogers Sabbatical plan. After review all agreed
8. Recommendations:
 - James presented the use of unrestricted funds, line 3300 of the budget for the following:
 1. New Broadcast System----\$15,000
 2. New Speakers--\$ 16,000
 3. Community Hall Sound System--\$1,500
 4. Portable Baptistry--\$2,000
 5. Replace Community Hall Flooring --\$15,000

M/S/A Joe Smerdel, Dave Kniss

9. Other Business:

Discussion on how we are feeling and or what we are hearing about SCC

10. Prayer—Mike

11. Adjourn—6:47

PASTOR'S REPORT TO OVERSEERS

April 19, 2019—Sarasota Community Church

Sabbatical

It's a difficult thing to imagine being gone for three months. It's also something I welcome with anticipation, recalling my last sabbatical as a time of great refreshment. It definitely served its intended purpose, and I trust will do the same this summer.

As reported and approved last month, Wendy and I will disconnect from church responsibilities from May 13 through August 11. All preaching and worship responsibilities have been assigned for the summer. Staff will continue to fulfill their roles, albeit without my counsel, but they are capable. All pastoral care concerns should be directed to Shirley, and all operations concerns to James. The worship plans are in place, and will continue to be coordinated by Lindsey, with worship leadership being shared among the same who currently lead. The rest of the staff will just do what they do, including Dennis being gone for a couple months.

As for Wendy and me, our biggest endeavor for this sabbatical is a cross-country motorcycle trip. We will enjoy seeing the sites, but there is also a study element to it, hearing from other pastors about church unity. We will YouTube our travels and interviews as "One Question Across America," asking pastors to speak to the question: "What are the obstacles and opportunities for the churches in your local community to 'be brought to complete unity' as Jesus prayed, and to 'let there be no divisions among you' as Paul said?" (I plan to release my new book prior to our travels, called, *ONE together: A Vision for Ending Division*. Please pray for it to be helpful in fanning a much needed conversation among the churches across our land.)

We understand that such a trip has its risks, and invite you to pray for safe travels. I also ask you to please invest heavily in the church while we are away. Our mission to love Sarasota has never been more urgent, and the gospel has never been more effective at rescuing and reconciling people to God. Let's give him our best efforts to bless. Likewise, you will certainly be in our prayers as well. I expect to hear good things and meet new people when we return.

New Faith and New Members. We have a few more people who have expressed interest in membership and baptism prior to my leaving on sabbatical!

Word and Worship. We held our first Q&A Sunday on April 7 in which the pastoral team answered people's questions about faith and how it intersects with life. It was well-received so we plan to do it again. Our winter crowds have shifted as is common for this time of year. As a staff we are always looking very carefully and gently at how to respond to the lower attendance during the summer, especially of the first service which experiences the greater sense of loss. I am still committed to offering inspirational services that feature both the traditional and modern music genres, but we are well aware that a number of people among us would like to see the services blended. We continue to seek wisdom about that, but have no plans to do so right away. This summer we are creating more testimony videos featuring stories of hope within our congregation.

Families Minister. On March 31, Liz Lane received a 100% affirmation to the position of Families Minister! She is ready to get to work as soon as her duties at Sarasota Christian School and a few other commitments allow. To that end she asked if she can start earlier than expected, which I welcomed, as this is a key position for a very pressing need! She will start in July. Please, let's support her and "set her apart" with much prayer, and even fasting.

Youth Ministry. Nic and Samantha King are returning as youth leaders, having concluded their paternity/maternity leave. Wendy and I have loved teaching and investing in these students. Most of them are from Sarasota Christian School, which is a total shift from years past. The students have a genuine faith, and

the discussions are lively. Nic and Sam will overlap with Wendy and me to soften the transition, and to see get a feel for any changes to the group while they were away.

Seniors Ministry. Over the past several months, the seniors have been involved in spiritual growth, service, and activities. Some are leaving for the north again and have been making many positive comments of how they will miss us and all that we provide for them. Living joyfully, which meets twice a month has had an impact on many with attendance of 50 to 120 people. The Winter Friendships class has concluded it's Sunday morning meetings until the fall when the snowbirds start to return. This summer we are planning to provide various opportunities for our church family to meet at various restaurants in the community for fellowship and encouragement.

Missions. In March two teams traveled to Puerto Rico to help renovate a school that was devastated by hurricane Maria. Last week a need was made known of a widow whose house was in need of repair and the yard needed attention. Dennis put out the word on a Saturday and by Monday a team of volunteers had removed and replaced the old siding on one end of the house, as well as cleaning up the lawn. The lady was overwhelmed to see her church in action. Through missions efforts like this, friendships are developed and people are encouraged.

Community Events. This weekend we have our annual Easter Egg Hunt. This summer we are also planning three community events to foster connectedness during the season that people tend to take vacation. Our 6th annual SCC Family Bowl-a-Rama is planned tentatively for June 12, our 6th annual SCC Chili Cook-Off tentatively for July 10, and this year we're adding a 1st Annual Community Movie Night in the front parking lot of our church, projecting onto our front wall, planned for August 30.

Facilities and Renovation. A portable baptistry has been ordered and will arrive this week. The Community Hall carpet is being replaced with vinyl, April 22 through May 1. Our appeal for volunteers to serve on the Building Committee has produced a small team which will work with various individuals who have also expressed interest in specialized areas. The Bahia Vista Community Builders have recently finished renovating the house on Siesta Key and listed it for sale.

Office Staff. Wendy Donovan has been secured as a temporary bookkeeper during Galen Swope's planned three-month absence this summer to serve up north for which we give our enthusiastic blessing.

May God bless Sarasota with love, joy, and peace, and may the same emanate from all of us who call Sarasota Community Church home.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.