

Congregational Meeting 5/18/2014

The meeting opened at 6:05 p.m. with a quorum (128) in attendance.

The minutes from the January congregational meeting were accepted.

MOTION was made by the board to accept the following persons into membership:

Sharon Gilles

Marilyn and Ron Helms

Robbin and Robert Holder

Kathlynn and Raymond Montonera

Debra Hallberg-Palmer and Dan Palmer

Deborah and Jeffrey Richardson

Debra and Dave Selby

Traci Stahl

The motion was seconded and the proposed members were accepted by voice vote.

MOTION was made to form a nominating committee led by Jim Adkins with the following members:

David Jones

Keith Hanson

Lisa Appleby

Betsy Corning

Barb Kulik

The motion was seconded and carried.

Report on The Bridge Church - Todd Berge

Todd gave thanks for the mentoring and support that he has received in preparing to launch the church plant. He has: a launch team of 70 people, a budget of \$300,000 and 12 service events. The church plant already has a good reputation and people are intrigued.

The Bridge has a good working relationship with the Junior High School where they will be meeting. They have purchased 24,000sq. feet of office space at a cost of \$210,000 and have 4 staff members. They have also purchased a Portable Church at a cost of \$135,000. This houses the equipment that they will set up in the Junior High for worship services.

Prayer requests for The Bridge:

- 1.) God would continue to build bridges into the community for the gospel.
- 2.) The Bridge would be a missional and Christ centered church.
- 3.) They would raise the necessary funding.

Pastor's Report – David Jones

Attendance: Comparing the first 19 weeks of this year (average of 834) to the same period last year (average of 761), we continue to grow around 10% per year. 878 attended the two Good Friday services. We had 1285 on Easter Sunday. As we grow our identity as a church changes. A church between 800 and 1200 is different from a church between 400 and 800. Church growth expert Gary McIntosh says that when a church grows beyond 800, five key points of transition must be addressed:

Senior Pastor. The role shifts from that of caregiver and manager to that of a leader. As much as I have a heart for people, I cannot do everything that everyone expects of me.

Staff. The staff is no longer a group of general practitioners but rather a team of specialists who can design and lead the ministries under their care.

Leadership Development. Staff is no longer primarily doers but rather developers. They equip people in the congregation to do the work of ministry.

New Ministry Development. As the church grows, it needs to spin off new venues for growth and service, such as small groups, classes, programs, services, etc.

Care giving by Laypersons. At this size congregation, care giving shifts from the pastoral staff to trained laypersons.

Offerings

We have been running about 8% ahead of budget since New Years. We have also received a generous estate gift from a former member of our church who passed away. The board has begun to consider how to invest those funds in kingdom work.

Building Project: Proposed Timeline

- Formal Proposal—Sept 21, 2014 (Congregational Meeting)
- Home Meetings—October 2014
- Vote to begin Capital Campaign—Nov 16, 2014 (Congregational Mtg.)
- Start of Capitol Campaign—Jan 3-4, 2015
- End of Capitol Campaign—Mar 14-15, 2015
- Finalizing Scope of Project—April 2015

- Vote to begin construction—May 17, 2015 (Congregational Meeting)

Staff

Dick Ehrle announced his resignation after 12 years of service as administrator for VCB. Pastor David expressed his great appreciation for Dick.

Plans for staff as we move forward:

- Wes Johnson becomes FT. He will keep the Connections Ministry and Middle School. He will pick up the oversight of Congregational Care, Compassion and Small Group placement. His title might be Director of Community Life.
- We anticipate a lot of work on our building in the next three years. So we are taking half of Dick's job and expanding it to a FT position: Director of Facilities (or operations). This person will oversee renovation projects, new construction and the maintenance staff. This is going to help us be better stewards of the building that God has entrusted to us.
- We are taking the other half of Dick's job—finances—and adding a pastoral component to it. Essentially, this person will assist me with a number of things that are on my plate, including staff care, strategic planning, administration and general pastoral duties. This position will be called the Associate Senior Pastor.

Two other positions that we looked at funding were the Director of Women in Ministry and a Missions/Evangelism pastor. If our church continues to grow, these are the next two positions in queue. We are thankful for Val Stutz and Carol Marshall before her, who have volunteered their time to lead women's ministry.

Changes for existing staff: Jim Crouter picks up men's ministry. Jenifer Burns picks up MESH (Marriage Enrichment, Support and Healing). Gordy Williams picks up the Equipping Center.

Church Planting

The Bridge launches in Algonquin on Sept.7, 2014.

Next year will be a recruiting year, finding two church planters that will be in residency at VCB in 2015-2016. Potential places for a church plant are: Buffalo Grove/Vernon Hills area. Other possibilities are Lake Zurich and Palatine.

Several Free Church pastors in this area are beginning to talk about what we can do to reach the Northwest Suburbs for Christ. Todd and I, along with Cabot Ashwill of Life Spring Community Church (EFCA) in Spring Grove, IL, and Adam Fix of Our Savior EFC in Wheeling, are talking about creating a church planting network of Free Churches in our area. We are in the very early stages—crafting the mission statement, refining the vision, reaching out to EFCA pastors, etc. We have a meeting coming up in June.

Preaching

The current series on Proverbs will carry us through the summer, interspersed with some guest speakers. We will do a study of 1 Thessalonians this fall. In the winter

we will have two shorter series: one on Christian stewardship and another on heaven. In the spring we will do a series on Genesis 1-11. Developing side bars for unbelievers: While we are not moving in the direction of seeker driven, we do want to be a place where unbelievers can come and hear the Gospel without being completely confused.

Study Tours

- Footsteps of Paul departs Thursday
- Looking to see if there is sufficient interest for another tour to Israel in 2016. We need at least 25 committed people.

Financial Update – David Cartwright

The church finances are in strong condition. Giving is 8% over budget through April (10 months of the fiscal year). A couple of expense categories were pointed out. The administrative costs were above budget due to staff changes. The property expenses were above budget due to the amount of snow removal and heating costs for the harsh winter.

Our YTD general fund surplus is \$101,746 . The balance in our General fund as of 4/30/2014 was \$380,271.

The congregation is encouraged to continue being faithful in giving; we continue to have needs.

Budget for 2014-2015 – Dick Ehrle

Meetings and reviews for the budget began in February. This past Tuesday the board approved the budget for the fiscal year July 2014 through June 2015. Key facts are:

1. The budget figure of \$1,900,000 assumes a 3% tithe increase.
2. Salaries and benefits for staff are 54.8% of the budget vs. 55.4% in the 2013-2014 budget. This is with a net increase in staff positions of .7 FTE
3. Increase in property budget—we need to put more money back into the building for repairs to the roof and other needs.
4. The ministry budget has increased significantly. Jennifer Burns explained the vision for MESH (Marriage Enrichment, Support and Healing).
5. 25K has been budgeted for a future church plant.

MOTION was made to accept the budget as presented. The motion was seconded and approved by a show of hands.

Stephen Ministry Dedication – Julie Fischer

The role of Stephen ministers was explained.

Dan Reynolds was commissioned as a Stephen Ministry Leader. We now have four Stephen Ministry Leaders at VCB.

Strategic Plan Update – Bruce Rhodes

One of the four goals in our Strategic Plan is to Empower Servants. Julie Fischer explained a specific plan called Village in Action. The vision statement: *Building the Kingdom through a Community of Empowered Servants*. The mission statement: *Initiate action, coordinate ministries and develop a heart for local missions*. The team would include Julie & Chuck Fischer, Joyce & Paul Rowland and 1 -2 additional person. The plan is to work with and through organizations that we already partner with (By the Hand, Love Inc., Breakthrough, Greencastle). How can church members participate? Empowered servants are equipped, mobilized and encouraged. Another goal is to develop criteria for vetting ministry partners.

Chairman Bruce Rhodes highlighted specific areas of focus for the strategic plan: Empowering servants, MESH, Discipleship process, Small groups. The strategic plan will be simplified for the coming year with specific goals and objectives.

Constitution Revision – Bruce Rhodes

Anthony Tako is leading a group to complete the draft of the revised constitution. Areas that are being addressed include: splitting the articles and bylaws (Keith Hanson explained the rationale), two mandated congregational meetings per year, duties of deacons and elders (vs. duties of the board), process for approving new members, define process for hiring new staff.

A time of prayer took place.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.