



Congregational Meeting Minutes
Sunday, November 13th, 2022, 10:00 am

- 1) **Technology Check**
- 2) **Declaration of Quorum:** 138 in attendance (108 in person, 30 online)
- 3) **Call the Meeting to Order** by Council President, Jackie Mackenthun at 10:11 am
- 4) **Opening Prayer:** Pastor Alicia
- 5) **Motion to approve agenda** by Dr. George Winn, second by Karla Klingfuss, motion passed
- 6) **Background**
 - a. Vision 2020, Strategic Plan 2.0, "Next Steps": Pastor Ben
 - b. Facility-related aspects: Jackie Lee
- 7) **Leadership Introductions (introduced by council member Chris Hauck)**
 - a. Barb Niemeyer - "Kitchen Upgrade" team
 - b. Christie Will - "Youth Room Revamp" team
 - c. Laura Magnuson - "Make it Grand" team
- 8) **Architect Selection Process - Laura Magnuson**
 - a. Selection Process
 - b. Station 19 Introduction
 - c. Intended Outcome
- 9) **Funding Questions - Council Treasurer, Brian Gieseke**
 - a. We received just over \$91,000 in employee retention funds from the government. As we have a balanced budget and do not carry debt, we felt it was important to keep these funds separate from the budget to use it on additional ministries. We would use the employee retention funds to cover these architect fees.
 - b. It is estimated the architect fees would be around \$35,000
- 10) **Motion for congregation to vote to engage Station 19 as our architect, using existing funds, up to \$35K,** by Laura Magnuson, second Audre Johnson, motion passed
 - a. Discussion/Questions from Congregation
 1. **Question (online):** What about those with special needs, youth and adults? What are the plans for those adults with unique needs to include them during the service?
Response: The Make It Grand Team wants to ensure this is an inclusive space for all to be able to participate, whether here physically or in a virtual environment. There's been a lot of discussion around how we can make our

space more inclusive for all. Station 19 would bring forward ideas to accommodate all.

2. **Question:** Are there any restrictions on use of the Employee Retention Credit dollars?

Response: No restrictions on those funds.

3. **Question:** Will this be a single project or three separate projects?

Response: We plan to look at the full facility versus three separate projects. Station 19 will help us identify through a series of interviews what our challenges are and what the prioritization will be. The Scope of Work is going to determine the cost. We may have several phases, but will always know where we are going next. Until we understand the Scope of Work and the cost, it's hard to determine how many phases and years it will take.

4. **Comments:** Every time we do something, people say this is not the right time to do it. Interest rates are high now, but a year from now, we do not know what they will be. This is not a "this year" project; it's going to take some time. The Church has no debt. If you look at our giving, as a guesstimate, based on where we're located and our demographics, this congregation is giving less than 1% a year, and that is something we should work on. Doing a project like this, planned over a period of time, we have to have an architect. I think we should do this.

5. **Question (online):** Who is representing those with special needs in this process?

Response: People can voice their concerns to the Make it Grand Team. We are going to go through a whole series of listening sessions. We are here to represent everybody. We encourage someone that has that passion to participate in these sessions to make sure their voice is heard.

6. **Question:** What is the status for the new entrance road for the South side and the cost?

Response: In time, the entrance off of 19 will be terminated, and we will be entering the parking lot from the South. The timeline is still to be determined, but these plans would support that unknown. We would want the physical space and the whole property to be planned knowing we will eventually be entering from the South.

- b. Congregational Vote

Motion approved by the congregation to hire Station 19, using existing funds up to \$35K.

12) **Closing Prayer: Pastor Ben**

13) **Motion to adjourn:** 10:58 am by Karla Klingfuss, second Mary Hanson Bush, motion passed

Secretary: Heather Nybo

Online Moderators: Dan Smith and Sharon Steinhoff Smith