

Council Report

April 2015

The April Council meeting was convened 4/23/15. Immediately prior to beginning, John Foley and Sharon Auldreich prayed over us words encouraging us to Stand Firm and persevere. These prayers are welcomed and greatly appreciated during this season of transition. Pat Simpkins noted that considering the violence and crime today, and particularly the persecution of Christians to the point of martyrdom, our problems sort of seem insignificant. In other words, we have much to be thankful for and that's where we should choose to put our focus.

Pastor Char and Carol Olinger attended the meeting in their capacity as overseers of ministry and business matters. As a reminder, Char is supervising our ministry staff, and Carol is managing the business operations as we move forward in our search for a new senior pastor. During this time, sermons will be preached by Char, John Foley, Brian Martin, and Jon Oney, with assistance from time to time by guest speakers, including Dan Clites who is scheduled to speak again for the month of July.

Right now, we are studying the book Who Stole My Church, by Gordon MacDonald. The sub-title is somewhat more descriptive: "What to Do When the Church You Love Tries to Enter the 21st Century". The copyright date is 2007, so it has been around for a while. In retrospect, it might have been advisable to have strongly encouraged everyone to read it when it first came out.

The theme is basically how do we deal with change in the church. There is a theory that says any organization that changes at a slower rate than society is probably doomed. That theory is relevant to FCC. We must keep our hearts and minds directed toward bringing the Gospel to the lost. That is our core purpose, and that can never change. But it matters not what kind of Christian music we sing, or the type of instruments used, or the volume level it is played at. Those are simply individual preferences that are far subordinate to our core purpose.

Having said that, the Council supports a worship music ministry that honors God, and appeals to the widest possible audience (because it is virtually impossible to satisfy all preferences). Our belief is that the direction we settled on a while back is still the best option. As such, we will continue offering contemporary music, played by a band three weeks per month, with an acoustic service on the fourth week. We will also continue to work on the sound mixing and volume issues in an effort to provide a fulfilling worship experience for everyone.

Our Senior Pastor Call Committee has been seated, and will be commissioned Sunday, April 26. In addition to Council president and vice-president, the others are Jim Boldenow, Rob Dahlin, Karen Wilson, Koren Willetts, and Kristy Kammerer. Please lift them up in rigorous prayer as they go about their duties in the coming weeks.

Our Nominating Committee Chair, Cully Orstad, reports that 4 persons have returned Council questionnaires. Voting will take place at the annual congregational meeting, scheduled for June 28th. Prior to that meeting there will town hall meetings in June to review and discuss agenda items. Also,

watch for a new, more streamlined format for the annual meeting but go ahead and mark the date on your calendars.

We are grateful to God for a generous gift received recently that allowed us to stay current on our obligations. He always provides and we trust that He will continue to do so as we move forward. FY 2015/2016 budget planning is under way. At the giving levels we are currently experiencing, we will probably need to do some additional belt tightening. Please be in prayer about this over the next few weeks.

We continue to encourage you to provide us with feedback in any form. We have recently begun to see the Council e-mail site receiving more use and hope you will take advantage of it if you have something on your mind. Also, our phone numbers are in the Church Directory. If you don't have a directory, contact any staff member to obtain any of our numbers. We look forward to hearing from you.