

## Council Report

October 2015

The Council meeting was convened at 7:00 pm Oct. 20. Mark offered our opening prayer.

We opened again with a discussion of how (or if) anyone sensed that God had spoken to them in any way since our last meeting. Several stories were shared, with one being particularly powerful. JD shared how he had placed his brother on our prayer list prior to his surgery for bladder cancer. The surgery was a complete success with no evidence of any cancer remaining. JD's brother said he had felt the prayers going up for him and is convinced they played a major role in his healing. Our God is awesome!

The consent agenda was approved, as was the August Financial Report that had been tabled at the Sept. meeting. The September Financial Report was tabled, again for clarification of a couple of minor entries.

Mark provided an update on the Senior Pastor Call Team progress, noting that they will be interviewing two candidates in the next few weeks.

We held an extended discussion on the cancellation of the Love Burnsville event, and the decision to end our Faith Food Outreach ministry. In the case of Love Burnsville, a quick tour of the parks we were being tasked to clean up revealed that there was no work as all were essentially free of debris and litter.

The leaders of FFO learned recently of new requirements and expectations we would have to meet in order to continue offering this ministry. Essentially, Second Harvest Heartland receives some federal funding. Thus, they, as well as anyone acting as their agent, must abide by certain federal civil rights training requirements which mandate an annual two-hour training session in order to qualify to be in the program. This requirement in and of itself would present a huge obstacle to recruiting volunteers.

The Federal regulations also require the provision of a formal complaint procedure in the event someone taking advantage of our ministry feels that their

civil rights were in any way violated. While it may be difficult to imagine someone having their rights violated by one of our volunteers, it is much less difficult to imagine someone **thinking** they were violated and filing a complaint. Defending ourselves against such complaints will be onerous in terms of time, energy, and money.

As a result of this, in combination with the recent trend in volunteer participation, the leadership of FFO concluded that the training requirements and the potential legal exposure do not justify continuing this program. Efforts are underway to find a suitable replacement for outreach ministry.

Mark updated us on the on-going work to come up with a clear, concise definition of what is required to be considered a Member in Good Standing. He and Carolyn are meeting with the past 3 presidents of the Council to refine those requirements to something more objective and understandable than what we now have.

It was noted that both the new boiler and the kitchen fire suppression system upgrade should be complete by the end of the month.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm with closing prayer by Carolyn.