The 2017 Winter meeting of OAFC was held on GoToMeeting. The 1st session of the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on January 6, 2017. The 2nd session of the meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. on January 7, 2017.

Names of Participants –

(Friday Night session) Pastor Matthew Tassey, Pastor Jeffery Nerht, Rebecca Nehrt, Pastor Andrew Ratcliffe, Pastor Jacob Mueller, JR Townsend, Ben Debrick, Jamie Louderback, Sandra Hernandez, Dana Baker, Ethan Boester, Ted Drevlow, Devin Brammeier, and Kathryn Depaola. Not participating was William Whitener.

(Saturday session) Pastor Matthew Tassey, Pastor Jeffery Nerht, Rebecca Nehrt, Pastor Andrew Ratcliffe, Pastor Jacob Mueller, JR Townsend, Ben Debrick, Jamie Louderback, Sandra Hernandez, Dana Baker, Ethan Boester, Ted Drevlow, Devin Brammeier, and Kathryn Depaola. Not participating was William Whitener.

Agenda Items

1. Review/ Approval of Executive Directors Report (at end of Minutes)

(Motion by PR, seconded by Ethan, passed

1. Review/ Approval of Business Manager’s Report/ Financial Report (at end of Minutes)

(Motion to approve Business by PR, second by Jamie; Motion to Approve Financial by Sandra, second by Sandra, passed)

1. Report by International Travel Team (at the end of minutes)
2. Report of Ministry Evaluation Survey (at the end of minutes)
3. Old Business
4. 2017 Summer Training
5. Theme and Verses – Absolutely Certain – Romans 8:1, Hebrews 11, 1 John 5:13
6. Logo – Absolutely Certain inside Luther’s Rose
7. Location – Trinity LCMS, Nashville, IL
8. Dates – June 8 – 14, 2017 (Motion by Pr. Mueller to approve dates, 2nd by Kat, passed)
9. Schedule – Thursday – Wednesday
10. Assigning Tasks and Committees

Preparation Duties List (Should be done by the OAFC Board Members)

T-Shirts Designing – Matthew Tassey

T-Shirts Ordering – Matthew Tassey

Check-In Supplies Bringing – Tassey/Nehrt

Registration Lists – (Through the Website) Pastor Tassey

Medical Release Forms – Tassey/Nehrt

Payment Receiving/Confirming – Nehrt

Sales at Training – Sandra, Devin

Voting Director – Sandra

Running Training Duties List

Master of Ceremonies – Boester

Lead Guitarist – [Fosse], [L. Sperry]

Song Leader – [L. Sperry], [Hannah D.]

Summer Training Secretary – Sandra

Thank You Card Director – Devin (OAFC provides supplies)

Participant Orientation Director – Pr. Mueller

Team Leader Orientation Director – Tassey

Dress Code/Facility Custodian Director – Board

Meals Director – [Ellen & Paula]

Nurse/Mom – [B. Fosse]

Technology Director – JR

Cameraman/Videographer – [K. Fosse]

Something from the Store – D. Drevlow

Team Leaders/Assistant Leaders (Recommendations)

1: [Mike B.]?

2: [A. Delong]?

3:

4: Pr. Mueller

ITT: Pastor Kirby, Boester, Adam, Aaron, Kristian, Devin, Dana, Roger, JR, Sandra, L.

Schmidt?

1. Workshop Presenters –

a. Pr. Nehrt

b. JR will lead Canvassing Large Group Volunteer

c. Secretary Training will be during Large Group on Friday Evening

d. Ethan and Pr. Mueller coordinating Perry Co. museum visit on Friday from 1

 p.m. to 3 p.m. for 75-80 people

e. Kennedy Evangelism Explosion & OAFC

f. Youth Witnessing in their lives – Marcus Zill and Campus Ministry

g. Keynote Speakers – Dr. Eric Hermann, Pr. Micah Glen (Ferguson Ministry), Dr. Kloha (Historical Apologetics of the Bible, Pr. Jonathon Fisk (KFUO), Jim Likens (dramatic presentations of the Gospel, maybe join us for drama showcase)

1. Registration (limited to 60)– Adult - $50.00/ Youth - $65.00

(Motion by Pr. Ratcliffe, 2nd by Pr. Mueller to raise adult registration to $50)

1. Summer Training Budget
2. Publicity – attend District Pastor’s Conference - $1000.00
3. Publicity Mailings - $1000.00
4. Keynote Speaker – cap at $500.00
5. Site Honorarium - $250.00
6. Training Supplies - $200.00
7. Meals - $1000.00
8. Training Manuals - $300.00
9. T-shirts - $600
10. Travel Reimbursement - $250.00
11. Travel Team Supplies - $300.00

(Motion by Kat to approve ST budget, 2nd by Jamie, budget passed)

1. Nominations Committee Report –
2. **Nominations Committee**

o Collation of Board Nominees

Pastor (LCMS.org) Jacob Mueller . Mark Triplett . Dan Smith .Tom Moyer . Jon Moyer .Dan Barz

Adult Female - Beth Fosse . Jeanne Coats . Jeppesen . Eileen Heintz . Kailey Weisharr

College Male - Ethan Boester .. Chad Berg . Jordan Schutte . Aaron Fosse

College Female - Dana Baker . Megan Sperry . Kailey Bales .

Youth Male - Jacob Fosse . Ethan Ruhlig .

Youth Female - Skyler Kimsey . Emily Sperry . Devin Brammeier

1. Fundraising Committee Report-
2. New Business
3. Summer Training 2018 General Planning
4. Theme Ideas – Solas/ Above, Creation, Prayer (continually)
5. Location
6. OAFC base – Minnesota, Texas, Iowa
7. Other – Florida or Campus (see “On Campus Summer Training A Budget Analysis”
8. Dates – June 14 – 20/ June 21 – 27 (LWML at Corpus Christi 2018?)
9. Review 2016 Revenue/Expense

o Revenue = $**46,980.05**

o Expense = $**47,106.26 ($20,000 transferred to LCEF)**

1. 2017 Budget

Summer Training 2017 Budget (SEE ABOVE) = $3,400

 International Travel Team 2017 Budget = $3500 + up to 4000 = 7500

 Synodical Publicity Budget (SEE ABOVE) = $1,000

 Executive Director's Salary = $13,440

 National Promotions Budget = $1,000

 Local Group Promotions Budget = $250/group or $2,000

 Local Group Supplies Budget = $500

 Board Meetings Budget = $40 (10/meeting for 4 meetings)

 Automobile Upkeep Budget = $5,540

 Insurance Budget = $2,703

 Office Expenses Budget = $400

Website Fees = $484

Crier/Emails Fees = $300

Other –

Total = $38,307

1. Motion to approve 2017 budget by Sandra, 2nd by Ben, passed
2. OAFC Van
3. Van is currently titled and insured under Mt. Calvary in Galesburg, IL. At the time of purchase it was decided that it was cheaper to insure under a church than OAFC.
4. Asking permission to check into cost and if the price is comparable, insure under OAFC so that the title is in owner’s name and so that local groups can use the van when needed. Permission given.
5. Ministry Evaluation
6. Difficulty in scheduling weekends – local director’s role and pastoral advisor’s role
7. Hospitality
8. Canvassing Survey
9. Clear communication with churches and publicity
10. Big National Youth Gatherings vs. OAFC weekends
11. When are Local Directors given the opportunity to voice their opinion about the changes in weekend/ summer training scheduling or other board decisions that affect their ministry? Before or after the vote is made?
12. OAFC Social Media presence – Kat is asking for help with this (committee?)
13. Instagram
14. Twitter is linked to Facebook
15. Facebook
16. Upcoming – snapchat, pinterest

Actions or Tasks

1. Motion by Pastor Mueller, seconded by Kat to approve the dates of Summer Training. Motion passed.
2. Objective/ Purpose of Summer Training 2017 – Train people, encourage local youth to interact with OAFC (Christ Our Rock Lutheran HS), Rooted in the Word, Equip participants in sharing their faith and Christ and His Word, teach and reinforce what the witnessing methods are, emphasize the certainty of being with Jesus over and above emphasizing our death and judgment, build on the theme of the 500 anniversary of the Reformation.
3. Emphasize the importance of having a personal witness.
4. Discussion about Medical release forms. It is important for groups that travel to have the release forms in hand at the beginning of their travel, not when they arrive in Nashville.
5. Request to put the training duty list in the Crier in January and February.
6. Rebecca will investigate the difference in titling the van in OAFC’s name instead of Mt. Calvary and putting the insurance on OAFC’s business policy with GuideOne.
7. Pastor Tassey should establish a policy committee that would address issues as they arise (fundraising policy, sexual misconduct policy, etc.) The committee would work through the wording of new policies or revising old policies and report at a scheduled board meeting. Motion by Ben, 2nd by Kat. Passed
8. Rebecca will work to reword the bylaws so that the Executive Director is responsible for writing the application or reapplication questions for the RSO status. Moved by Pastor Mueller, 2nd by Kat. Passed

The main points

1. Discussion by Pastor Tassey that registration fees do not cover the projected summer training costs stimulated the motion to raise the registration fee for adults to $50.00. Pastor Tassey was reminded that the costs of summer training is covered by the registration fees and the summer training offerings. The board had voted in favor of the offerings being used for training. expenses at a previous board meeting. OAFC does not have a deficit in summer training costs.
2. Pastor Tassey proposed a Campus Site Summer Training Cost and Schedule. No action taken.
3. Pastor Tassey asked for final schedule of 2017 summer training to be 5,6, or 7 day.
4. In ministry evaluation, Pastor Tassey says that the common practice is for local directors to schedule outreach weekends. Is that the local directors job or the pastoral advisor’s job? Are the local directors having to do this job because the regional groups are not being set up with the full support of a pastoral advisor? If there is no pastoral advisor for a region but there is a group, who should be calling churches and pastors to set up weekends? No action taken.
5. Instead of the survey question, “If you died tonight…” change to “Do you have a certainty of being with Jesus? Why?” No action taken.

Next Meeting – March 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to Adjorn by Ben, 2nd by Kat

Closing Prayer

Executive Director's Report, Winter 2017

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTIVITIES**

**1. Publicity**

**a. Set up for Summer Training –**

**i.** Having received no positive feedback regarding hosting congregations in the Board recommended regions of Fort Wayne or St. Louis, I asked Mark Triplett to ferret through his Fort Wayne-area contacts and Jacob Mueller and Jeffrey Nehrt to ferret through their St. Louis-area contacts for possible Conference Site churches.

SIDE NOTE: *As much of Summer Training planning and implementation relies on the willingness of the Conference Site pastor and workers, trying to host a Summer Training at a lukewarm or begrudging site is counterproductive. This is why I did not try to push churches into hosting but rather sought willing hosts.*

**1.** Mark was unable to get individual churches willing to host as Conference Site, but could arrange the Seminary to host at a VERY reduced cost with then activities arranged for/at area churches during the day.

**2.** Jeff was able to get a lead on churches around the Nashville, IL area. Jeff is following up on these leads with information sheets sent from Pastor Tassey. As soon as the contact is solidified, Pastor Tassey will begin planning in earnest for the Nashville, IL area Summer Training.

**b. National OAFC Recognition –**

**i.** RSO Status Updating with Deaconess Dorothy Krans – They've changed what the Synod wants with each RSO update (we've been updating our RSO status for over 30 years), and so we are working on meeting their requirements. I'm waiting on a response back from Deac. Krans regarding a meeting with our Board as one of the new requirements.

**ii.** LCMS Rural and Small Town Mission Conference – Exhibited and led an OAFC workshop at RSTM November 3-5. It went very well, with nearly 20 signed up for more info – initial emails have been sent with more contacts and connections planned. For those interested, below is a simple recap of the workshop I led.

I began my workshop by asking the simple question: What is your church doing to witness? In my own congregation in Nebraska, we try to use the Synodical model of Witness, Mercy, Life Together to evaluate our ministries; to see what we’re doing well as a congregation and where we can improve. I also then try to divide those three categories among the life-stages of people in our congregation and community. So, how are we doing at Life Together among our Seniors, or Mercy among our young families, and how are we doing at Witness among our teens?

When you ask churches these days what they’re doing for Witness, most of the time their answers are really Mercy. If you’re running a free lemonade stand outside of your church, what are you doing with that which actually communicates the Gospel of the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ alone? In our current culture, often the answer to that question is very little. And using this three-fold categorization of Witness, Mercy, Life Together helps emphasize that reality and need in our churches—usually not just for youth, but for the whole congregation.

And so it was at the workshop when I asked folks to evaluate their own ministries. With eyes opened to the need we have in our churches to bear witness to the Gospel, I then asked: Who is easier to train to be bold witnesses of the Faith; the middle age churchgoer already set in their ways, or the youth? It’s obvious. If we want to change the culture of our churches, which is so often one afraid or uncertain about sharing the forgiveness of sins in Jesus, we need to start with our youth. OAFC is a program designed specifically to do just that. And, in the end, the majority of folks in the workshop wanted more information about OAFC and how they could do it in their own churches.

**c. Local Nebraska Group Activity –** We've been less than successful in getting churches wanting to host OAFC events in our area. (We even have OAFC alum who loved the program, but for reasons of either 1) too few youth in their own church, 2) hosting resistance, 3) limited past participation, or other reasons, don't want to host in the future). Thus, I opted to pilot (test out for viability) a format I've been drafting with the help of other OAFC youth and adults – especially Travel Team youth.

**i.** We held 1 such 1-day event this November with 2 other expected events in the Spring. REPORT: Because of the unexpected nature of youth schedules, what was to be a weekend of about 5-10 youth became a weekend of 2 youth. Had we done a full weekend, this would have had to be canceled for low attendance. But because we were working on only one thing, Puppets and Dramas, our 2 youth were able to hone a drama and a puppet show for sharing with their community. Given the low numbers, we did Social Media sharing, recording then uploading their videos on their Facebook, etc… as well as working on ways to put together OAFC Training Videos for local groups to train further on the Witnessing Methods. January's weekend will be focused on Bible Studies and Personal Witnesses, February's weekend will be focused on Canvassing.

**d. Crier –**

**i.** I got our server switched from Constant Contact to Weebly with no problem and the process is a LOT smoother now.

**e. Support Letters –**

**i.** Working on getting the process for Support letters much more efficient – but HONESTLY, FAILING at this.

**ii.** These past couple of months – since I tore up my knee at Summer Training – my time I used to use to work on these has been sapped by time spent caring for and rehabilitating through the pain in my knee, along with an increased load of duties at the church I serve (as we're going through some big issues with delinquents, Sunday School, parental involvement, etc.)

**iii.** My goal is to take the time in January or February to lay out the majority of the year's letters in advance. Pray I have the time. Please.

**f. Hosting New Years' Gathering on website –**

**i.** Created and managed registration site through the webpage Publicized it through the Crier and Social Media.

**ii.** 32 individuals have registered through the website for New Year's Gathering as of December 19th.

**2.** Board Meetings

**a.** Handled issues with subscription plans for GoToMeeting, the web host used for Videoconferencing. In the future, because they have changed how they will allow entities to do such, the Executive Director will call to end the ongoing subscription required of each use so that OAFC is only charged a Pro-Rated fee for the time of the Conference.

**b.** Set up the videoconference for January.

Business Manager's Report, Winter 2017

1. RSO Status – At the beginning of 2016, synod contacted OAFC to begin the reapplication process for our RSO status. Pastor Tassey assisted in answering the questions about the ministry and functions of OAFC. The RSO status of OAFC is not officially complete, however, because we are in the process of completing the paperwork, the Synod recognizes our desire to be an RSO and will continue to work with us until we complete all necessary requirements. Deaconess Krans will be in contact with Pastor Tassey until this process has been completed. Pastor Tassey was emailed with possible changes to the by-laws so that, in the future, the appropriate people are working on this task.

2. 2017 Summer Training Site – After the October meeting, we realized that if the summer training site might be moved out of St. Louis or Ft. Wayne because no churches had responded to Pastor Tassey’s request, we decided that the door was opened to seek another host site. Pastor Nehrt attended the SID Pastor’s conference and spoke with several pastors about the need for a host church. The pastor of the Lutheran Church in Nashville, IL responded positively to being the host site and several churched within 30 miles of Nashville are considering hosting teams. Pastor Nehrt has communicated with Pastor Tassey and Pastor Kirby to schedule summer training in Southern Illinois.

3. Taxes – The tax forms have been completed for 2015.

4. Weekend Reports for 2016 – The following is a list of weekends.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2/19/2016  | Texas  | St. Andrew  | Houston  | TX  | Coats  |
| 3/11/2016  | IL  | Our Redeemer  | Carrollton  | IL  | Brammeier  |
| 4/8/2016  | MO  | Holy Cross  | Emma  | MO  | Mueller  |
| 4/15/2016  | IL  | St. John Lutheran  | Mattoon  | IL  | Brammeier  |
| 7/22/2016  | NE  | Summer Training  |
| 8/12/2016  | IL  | Emmaus Lutheran  | Dorsey  | IL  | Brammeier  |
| 9/9/2016  | IL  | St. John Lutheran  | Champaign  | IL  |
| 9/23/2016  | TX  | Zion Lutheran  | Pasadena  | TX  | Coats  |
| 10/1/2016  | TX  | St. Luke  | Olney  | TX  | Clemens  |
| 10/7/2016  | IL  | St. John Lutheran  | New Minden  | IL  | Brammeier  |
| 10/14/2016  | NE  | Immanuel  | Lincoln  | NE  | Tassey  |
| 11/16/2016  | TX  | Texoma  | TX  | Clemens  |

5. The OAFC office address in the document packet on the website has been updated. When directors give paperwork at weekends, new documents should be used. If anyone sees a form with an old address, please let us know so that the address can be changed.

6. Topics for discussion in 2017 –

a. OAFC van - location, cost, insurance, usage

b. Communication with Lead Directors

c. Create list of items that need to be given to Concordia Historical Institute every year and items that need to be kept in digital and paper form (clarification of term “archives”)

Financial Report

Bradford National Bank (statement 11/31/16) – Balance $36,983.52

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (statement 9/30/2016) – Balance $56,400.44

**TOTAL INFLOWS $46,980.05**

**TOTAL OUTFLOWS $47,106.26 ($20,00 transferred to LCEF account)**

**OVERALL TOTAL $-126.21**

Respectfully submitted by Pastor and Rebecca Nehrt

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Ministry Evaluation Survey WHAT OAFC DOES WELL  | WHAT OAFC COULD DO  |
| Community/ Fellowship  | 16  | Marketing/Publicity  | 4  |
| Flexibility  | 1  | Deeper training  | 9  |
| Gospel-sharing  | 27  | Nothing/Don't Know  | 13  |
| Faith-growing  | 16  | No Door to Door  | 2  |
| Nursing Home  | 1  | Traditional Worship  | 1  |
| Purpose/Confidence  | 11  | Engage Pastors  | 1  |
| All ages  | 3  | Schedule Options  | 2  |
| Manners/Interpersonal  | 2  | Communication  | 1  |
| Church Connection  | 1  | Relational Witness  | 1  |
| Mind for the Lost  | 3  | Church Followup  | 1  |
| Prospects  | 1  | No "Kennedy-Style"  | 1  |
| Church-Workers  | 1  | NYG Pay by Website  | 1  |
| Methods  | 5  | Create more groups  | 3  |
| Prayer  | 1  | Increased area  | 1  |
| Youth Leadership  | 2  |
| No "Give Bible"  | 1  |
| Survey of Crier Subscribers December 2016 40 Responders  | Leadership Raising Personal Support  | 1  |
| Relevance  | 1  |
| Alumni  | 1  |
| Digital Outreach  | 1  |
| Urban Presence  | 1  |
| Aids for Start-Ups  | 1  |
| Videos  | 1  |
| No Host Homes/Safety  | 1  |