

GSLC Finance Committee Meeting

May 8, 2023

Members: Tyler Gold, Greg Vlack, Gary Schmuhl, Kris Schmuhl, Sara Ritter, Adam Frey, Nan Schilling, Rick Blum (Staff), Diane Wenzel (Staff). Guests - Jen Holmer and Scott Rodgers (Generosity Committee members)

The meeting opened at 6:01 pm with a prayer by Kris. Introductions were given by both the Finance and Generosity committee members.

Update on Financial Statement and Dashboard

Year-to-date results are trending in the right direction and about where we anticipated the results would be at this time.

- \$1.6 million in contributions YTD
- LBPS is doing well financially with increased enrollments
- The mortgage balance is under \$800,000
- Facilities are over budget

Mortgage Discussion (Rick)

The Committee revisits the re-amortization discussion monthly. To move ahead with re-amortizing for June 2023, paperwork would need to be submitted in mid-May. Currently, our monthly mortgage payment is around \$12,000. The mortgage balance will be at \$787,000 at the time of a June re-amortization. The 4% interest rate will not change. There's no cost to re-amortize.

A re-amortized monthly mortgage payment would be around \$6500. With a July 2023 re-amortization, our mortgage end date will stretch to the year 2036; however, the Committee is confident that the mortgage will be paid much earlier.

Kris made the motion recommending re-amortization. Greg seconded.. All members agreed and passed the recommendation to the Board that GSLC re-amortize in June 2023 with Thrivent.

Budget Discussion (Rick and Tyler)

The projected budget for fiscal year 23/24 has a \$145,000 deficit. This Committee feels it's essential to continue funding programming without making decisions on what to cut, however, below are thoughts on the projected deficit:

1. After some cuts are made, do we present to the congregation a smaller deficit?
2. Cover the deficits with targeted reserves. (With a re-amortization, we can free up a portion of the three months mortgage reserves to put toward the general budget.)
3. Try to find other items to cut for the upcoming fiscal year.

4. Would the Generosity Committee be able to come up with a Fall campaign to raise funds?

Today, the Committee received a copy of a proposal recommending to the Board a discussion on the drawbacks and benefits of shifting Foundation policies to fund operational items in a church budget. (The current Foundation by-laws do not allow for operational funding.)

Likewise, this proposal expressed the same line of thinking on how important it is to ensure that the church continues to fund its programming without needing to cut back. If the Foundation's by-laws are amended, this committee may be able to request funds from the Foundation to cover items that may need to be cut from the proposed budget.

Brainstorm Fundraising Ideas with the Generosity Committee

Recently, the Generosity Committee sent out an additional letter with giving statements to our congregants. The letter intended to connect and share in the spirit of abundance the many ways GSLC is blessed to empower our church family through stories of in-reach and outreach.

Scott recapped that under former committee head Ronda Beggs, the Generosity committee's intent was and will continue to act in the spirit of abundance rather than scarcity. This messaging gives our community a sense of what are deposits or withdrawals within a church. Deposits are the good things --- the shared stories on how GSLC impacts our church family and the neighboring community.

This year, one target goal is a four to five percent increase in contributions. The Generosity Committee could turn this aim into a campaign with proper messaging on deposits and withdrawals.

Other ideas on messaging:

- Highlight stories on our largest programs that center around youth and family
- Little Blessing Pre School
- Last Sunday's send-off for Becca and the recent confirmation class
- Facilities improvements (maybe a video with a quick tour of the updated items in a video announcement)
- The uses required of our shipping van.

The meeting ended at 7:00 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Nan Schilling