

## Financial Update

Thank you for your faithful giving. The work we do is only possible because of the generous stewardship of gifts and talents shared by the Fellowship community.

Our budget for 2016-17 was \$1,409,865 and our projected spending will come in below that at \$1,295,000. However, our giving has not matched pace with our budget, so we are projecting a \$173,000 gap for this fiscal year (which ends June 30).

|                    | General Fund | Missions   | Total       |
|--------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| 2016-2017 Budget   | \$1,264,965  | \$144,900  | \$1,409,865 |
| Projected Expenses | \$1,160,000  | \$135,000  | \$1,295,000 |
| Projected Giving   | \$997,000    | \$125,000  | \$1,122,000 |
| Projected Deficit  | (\$163,000)  | (\$10,000) | (\$173,000) |

We did anticipate needing to use some of our cash reserves this year as we moved out of the Capital Campaign and into a budget that includes \$210,000 toward debt reduction with our loan. As mentioned this past Sunday, we have reached our \$2.1 million dollar campaign in less than 3 years! This is something we celebrate. Moving forward, all gifts designated to "Facilities Fund" will go directly to debt reduction.

**How can you help?** If each family or individual added \$450 dollars to their normal giving before June 30, we would make up this difference. We know not everyone is able to give this amount, but we are praying that together, we can do this.

Contributions as of April 30:

General Fund: \$854,200.25 (budget: \$1,054,137);

Missions Fund: \$108,406.47 (budget: \$120,750)

### Christian Aid Offerings. Thank You!

|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Feb: Wings of Mercy      | \$2,217 |
| Mar: Ladder House        | \$1,988 |
| Apr: OAR                 | \$2,447 |
| Easter: Meet Up & Eat Up | \$4,949 |

## Upcoming Events

|   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| May 7: Table to Table Spring Fling      | June 4: Pentecost                   |
| May 14: Baptisms & Mother's Day         | June 11: Graduation Sunday          |
| May 21: New Members & Thank You Sunday  | June 12-16: Vacation Bible School   |
| May 28: Memorial Day/Everybody Worships | June 18: Father's Day & VBS Sunday  |
|   | June 25: Elders & Deacons installed |

# IN THE LOOP

May 2017

## Congregational Meeting Highlights

On Sunday, April 30, we met as a congregation to share what's happening in the life and ministry of Fellowship Church. Here are the highlights.

- After a prayer & devotion led by President of the Congregation, Rodger Price, quorum was declared and motions were passed to approve minutes from the 2016 meeting and to receive absentee ballots.
- Outgoing members of the Consistory were thanked. They are: Laurie Bos, Ken Arthurs, Hannah Clark, Allyson Fris, Bill Smith, Scott Postma, Elyce Cisler, Scott Kole, Mark Parker, & Bruce Rabe. Many thanks for sharing your time and talents!
- The single-slate for incoming Consistory members was approved. They are: Barb Eriks, Todd Tulgetstke, Tom Bos, Amy Dykema, Ric Knapp, Donna Knoth, Kelly Slager, Jan Aalderink, Sandy Alverson, Dick Schaap, Bob White. They will begin on July 1. Thank you for serving!
- Pastor Brian shared his news about accepting a call to Trinity Reformed Church in Iowa. He received a standing ovation from the congregation. You can read the Keepers' family letter to the congregation on the website. We will celebrate Pastor Brian's last Sunday at Fellowship on June 4.
- Kristin Garris, chair of the HR Team, then talked about our next steps in the Pastoral Transition process. The HR Team will be meeting in the next week to set up a timeline. All updates will be communicated to the congregation.
- Based on the feedback received from the Worship Survey, service times will remain at 8:30 and 10:00am. Thanks to everyone who participated in giving us feedback.
- Scott Postma discussed details of the budget and capital campaign. After a brief discussion, the budget for 2017-2018 was unanimously passed.
- We closed in prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:10.

Thank you to everyone who attended!



## A Note from Rodger Price, President of the Congregation

When Pastor Brian first shared this news, my initial reaction was, "Please no - I love having you as my pastor!" Thankfully, this initial reaction only lasted a few seconds, then my faith in God began to sweep through my being, almost like a practiced ritual. I quickly reminded myself that FRC is Christ's church, not ours. Our role as FRC leaders is to discern and then represent God's will for FRC, not our own.

Then a few days later, a subtle "aha" came to me - not unlike what Pastor Nate preached about recently. God gave me peace that all will be good - and even exciting. My heart was reminded that God has been with FRC from the very beginning:

- Through the first gatherings at Waukazoo elementary school, through the construction of the original building, through the first renovation, AND through our most recent renovation.
- God was with FRC through the calling of the first pastor, and the second, and right through the calling of Brian, Nate, and Lindsay.

I found myself with no doubt that God will be with us through the coming years, regardless of the moves that will be made.

I now find myself excited for Brian and Tammy. I also find myself excited for Fellowship Church. I know deep in my heart that God has great things in store for all of us, especially if we will open our hearts and seek God's will before our own.

Thanks be to God!

## Saying Good-bye to Pastor Brian

Pastor Brian's last Sunday will be June 4. There will be a celebration following the 10am service. Stay tuned for more information.

We will be collecting cards, reflections, memories, and letters to put together as a keepsake for him. If you would like to contribute any cards, memories, or letters, please submit them to the Welcome Center or office by Sunday, May 28. You can also submit a letter or memory at [bit.ly/PastorBrian](http://bit.ly/PastorBrian) and we will include them.

We will also be celebrating Brian and the entire Keepers family in other ways. More information will follow soon.

## Pastoral Transition Updates

As the process progresses, you can follow the most current updates on our blog at [www.fellowshipreformed.org/transition](http://www.fellowshipreformed.org/transition).

## Vacation Bible School

VBS is just five weeks away! Please join us for an exciting, creative week at Maker Fun Factory VBS, June 12-16 from 8:45-11:30am. Children ages four (Kindergarten 2018) through fifth grade are invited to take part in fun worship songs, cool games, awesome crafts, and life-changing Bible Discoveries. Once you sign up your child, you will receive a free music CD with the songs for the week.

Kids in 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade will be traveling to four different stations throughout the church. Tinker Tots, or the four-year-olds and those entering kindergarten, will be in a separate location learning the same theme and bible stories.

We can't pull this off without your help! 90+ volunteers are needed, including:

- **Student helpers** (6<sup>th</sup> grade and older) who can be assistant crew leaders or assistant station leaders.
- **Creative Crew Leaders** (adults or students entering 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grades). You do not do any prep work, but simply take attendance every day and lead the kids to stations while fostering lasting relationships.
- **One special adult to lead our crafts station area.** You would review the theme of the day, and show the craft to each group of about 25-30 kids, teaching the same lesson four times a day. Helpers and Crew Leaders are there to assist you, plus all crafts are already picked out and ready to go. If you feel you can serve in this way, contact Betsy as soon as possible. Or do it with a friend and be a co-leader!

Registration is up and running on our website! Simply click on the logo or the "Grow" tab. Register for your children and yourself online. It is super quick and easy and you can choose what job you are interested in.



We can't wait to see everyone on June 12. Children will have a blast as they learn how they are created by God and built for a purpose!

