

Rush United Methodist Church
Special Church Conference
March 2, 2021

A special conference was held on March 2, 2021, via Zoom Video. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Vonda J. Fossitt, authorized Pastor Todd Goddard to chair this Special Church Conference for the purpose of membership approval for the financing and construction of a replacement playground.

Information on the project was available to the membership prior to the meeting via the church website and RushTidings.

Members present: Pastor Todd Goddard, Geoffrey Furman, Alethea Coulter, Steve Williams, Kellianne Williams, Barb Kingsley, Paul Kingsley, Tanya Hunt, Erin Bills, Erma Perkins, Joan O'Mara, Leon Perkins, Sue Comstock, Jim Comstock, Nancy Miller, Jim Miller, George Gray, Cindy Gray, Peter Legueras, Kate Legueras, Britta Stambaugh, Bill Stambaugh, Rob Gruschow, Cathy Browning, Michele Cuatt, Lyn Kessler, John Kessler, Louise Miller, Jan Corey.

Invited Guest: Alex Kreutter, PromiseLand Board of Directors.

Quorum was determined to be met

Pastor Todd led with a prayer

Presentation of information:

Tanya stated the PromiseLand Board has been discussing the playground replacement for many years and working to save funds for this purpose. Alex reviewed the posted power point and gave background information on the project. This is a three tier project to upgrade the current playground for a more interactive, solid (commercial) structure. The first phase is for the older kids in the main part of the playground. PromiseLand received three quotes for replacing this area. Quotes were from State of Play, Bears and Parkitechs. PromiseLand Board selected State of Play as their quote was a lower cost for more interactive play and included professional installation. PromiseLand currently has \$15,000 committed to this project. All fundraisers going forward have been committed to the playground replacement until it is completed.

Discussion:

Nancy Miller - Since we have to remove all the equipment and mulch prior to the installation, can the purchased rubber mulch be reused?

Kellianne W and Alex K - Yes, the mulch will be moved to other areas of the playground. It was discussed the mulch we have on the playground now is not sufficient for compliance and additional mulch would have to be purchased if we don't pursue the new playground project.

Michele Cuatt - Is State of Play is providing new mulch?

Alex K stated wood mulch is included in the quote for all the providers. It is more easily available and cost effective than the rubber mulch. The wood mulch is playground grade so no chemicals have been applied.

Nancy Miller - Question about playground usage

Kellianne W reported the structure is rated for 30 kids but we would only have a few classrooms using it at the same time.

Cathy Browning - what is wrong with the current playground?

Kellianne and Alex answered - All the wood for the structure has aged and requires regular upkeep. If we put in that type of playground now, it would not meet code. Cindy and George Gray added the current structure was used when it was installed, so it's time to replace.

Michele Cuatt - Question about the plan for the smaller play area.

Kellianne - There is a plan to replace and upgrade all the structures. Any equipment that can be repurposed from the large playground area will be moved as well as reusing any rubber mulch.

Michele Cuatt - Do we have a builder for the project?

Alex - There is a builder provider by the company with the contract.

Michele Cuatt - Will the area need to be mowed?

Kellianne - The area being replaced is the current area with mulch. All other areas will potentially remain the same and in need of mowing. However, we will move the rubber mulch around difficult structures.

Michele Cuatt - Questioned how the structure will be positioned. Suggested avoiding an exposure that would heat up the structure in direct sunlight.

Alex - How the structure will face has not yet been decided but this will be taken into consideration.

Rob Gruschow - Questioned the finance interest rate compared to the interest rate the endowment fund would normally make in a year. Concern expressed to make sure the endowment fund does not lose money in this process and continues to grow.

Jim C - Rate will be based on the prime and re-established every year using the same formula as the roof. It should break even given the rates for both the fund and prime will change every year. Agreed the church needs to keep fund growing, that's why interest was included in the playground agreement.

Rob Gruschow - How many families attend PL and are church members?
Kellianne - Currently there are 4 families attending church and daycare.

Cathy Browning - How close is PromiseLand is to capacity with children?

Kellianne - With our current staffing, PromiseLand is close to capacity. We have the ability to expand the number of kids with hiring additional staff.

Alex - Having a new playground is attractive to a prospective parent. As we look to gather more kids, having a new structure is a good marketing tool.

Cathy Browning - Question about the upkeep of the old playground.

Kellianne - PromiseLands budgets \$1,500 per year for upkeep; most of this is the purchase of mulch. The cost for wooden mulch is significantly less. The new playground cost for mulch will be less and we have a warranty on the structure.

Sue Comstock - Questioned what the structure will look like (difficult to see in the pictures).

Kellianne - It will have a variety of interactive play areas including slides, climbing wall, monkey bars, food 'order' area, etc. A clearer picture will be included on future marketing materials.

Peter Legueras - Questioned what are the benchmarks PromiseLand will need to make for their fundraising efforts.

Alex, Tanya, and Kellianne - The Board is committed to paying off the church loan as quickly as they can. While we don't have specific benchmarks, we are planning on utilizing all fundraisers going forward for this purpose. Recent fundraiser profits have totaled \$1,300 additional funds for this purpose. If we want to pay it off in 5 years, this equals a minimum of

\$3,200 per year. Expectation of profits for all major fundraisers is \$5,00 per year. The board is confident the loan can be repaid in the time frame given.

Rob Gruschow - Questioned the cost of replacing all of the playground.
Alex - The current proposal is only for the large mulched play area. The board expects to save and raise money for the additional areas and pursue them when funds are available. There is not an anticipation the board would request any additional funds of the church for future projects.

Cathy Browning - will there be any changes to insurance cost premiums as a result of the new playground and what is the height of the structure.

Kellianne - The insurance is through the conference and would not change with the playground upgrade. The height for the new structure is the same as the current structure.

Bill Stambaugh thanked Alex for his leadership on this project.

Pastor Todd asked if there were any additional questions. There were none.

Tanya Hunt read the motion. It was seconded by Lyn Kessler.

Cathy Browning questioned the wording on the motion as it mentioned all playground equipment will be replaced. Since we are only talking about replacing the large structure at this time, the wording should be changed.

The motion wording was changed to reflect this. No additional discussion after the wording was updated.

Motion

PromiseLand Childcare to expend approximately \$36,000 for capital improvements, completing stage one playground improvement project.

PromiseLand Childcare will contribute \$15,000 towards this project.

PromiseLand Childcare will receive an \$5,000 grant from the Endowment Fund.

PromiseLand Childcare to borrow up to \$16,000 from the Rush United Methodist Church Endowment Fund for the purpose of replacing the

playground. The loan is to be repaid over a 5-year period at an annual interest rate equal to the Prime Rate on Oct 31 of the preceding year. Specifically, the outstanding unpaid portion of the loan on January 1 of each year will be increased by the prime rate on October 31 of the preceding year to establish the total amount to be repaid to the endowment fund. This outstanding balance will be divided by the total number of months remaining in the 5 year loan period to determine the monthly payment to the endowment fund for that year. In effect, the total debt will be recalculated on an annual basis and repayment will be made on a monthly basis, funded by the annual Operating Budget.

Vote:

3 Abstain

25 Yea

The motion was passed.

Board of trustees to execute the contract as soon as practical.

Pastor Todd thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Notes submitted by:

Alethea Coulter