

First Lutheran Church  
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes  
March 21, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

*“Renewed by Christ in Word, water, bread, and wine, we go in peace to serve our community and the world”*

**Members present:** Pastor Chris Culuris, Michelle Doose, Steve Erickson, Randy Frey-Hawkins, Bill Kautt, Dave Kennedy, Garrett Paul, Pat Pehrson, Mary Spear, Randy Stuckey, Grace Timm, Nancy Timm, Tobias Twait, Dawn Wenner, Aaron Banks. Sarah Chambers

**Members absent:** Ruth Johnson

1. Call to Order: Council President, Mary Spear at 6:30 p.m.
2. Devotions: Randy Frey-Hawkins
3. Approval of the agenda: M/S/C
4. Approval of the February 21, 2023 Minutes: M/S/C
5. Pastor’s Report for January: Pastor Chris Culuris
  - Hospital Visits: 0
  - Nursing Home Visits: 9
  - Assisted Living/Home/Office/Other Visits: 15
  - Youth Group at FLC: Feb. 1
  - Staff Support: Feb. 2
  - Women’s Retreat facilitated by Pr. Heather Culuris: Feb. 4
  - Pulpit Exchange with Pr. Scott Richards Gaylord congregations: Feb. 5
  - Presented my “State of the Church” report at Core Planning meeting: Feb. 5
  - Green Committee: Feb. 7
  - Social Justice via Zoom: Feb. 7
  - Annual Evaluations completed and filed with Dave, Karen, Angela & Calleigh: Feb. 8
  - Finance: Feb. 9
  - Stewardship: Feb. 9
  - Premarital Prep Counseling with Brady Tart & Amanda Hoehn: Feb. 9
  - CCM via Zoom: Feb. 10
  - Installed Executive Members of Council during worship: Feb. 12
  - “Making Sense of Luther” presentations: Feb. 12 & 26
  - Executive & Staff Support meeting: Feb. 14
  - Worship & Arts: Feb. 15
  - Lifelong Learning: Feb. 19
  - Minnesota Valley Conference Assembly at Bernadotte Lutheran Church: Feb. 19
  - First Holy Communion Class with 1 st & 2 nd Graders: Feb. 19
  - Ukrainian 1-year memorial service at Christ Chapel, GAC: Feb. 24
  - Funeral for Sandy Brovold: Feb. 25
  - Core Planning meeting: Feb. 26
6. President’s Report: Mary Spear

Mary thanked all of us for sharing our valuable time as a council member. She said she is grateful for each and everyone of you. Over the past 7 weeks, she has been involved in the strategic planning process. Steve, Dave, Aaron, Grace, have been very involved. Later Mary stated that she will be presenting the new strategic plan for FLC for the council to accept. She also attended a Congregation Lay leaders meeting on Zoom hosted by the Southwest MN Synod. The meeting focused on congregations and generosity and was led by representatives from GSB fundraising.

GBS fundraising and the SW MN Synod have partnered to provide congregations with ideas for inspiring generosity. She also shared the information with the stewardship committee.

7. Treasurer's Report: Bonnie Pettis
  - a. Bonnie stated that this month FLC is 108% ahead of the projected budget
  - b. \$77,000 projected to date and FLC is \$8,000 ahead
  
8. Committee liaisons
  - There was no important business to vote on from committees this month.
    - a. Randy Frey-Hawkins: Finance
    - b. Randy Stuckey: Stewardship
    - c. Nancy Timm: Fellowship/Altar Guild
  
    - d. Mary Spear: Social Justice
    - e. Grace Timm: Lifelong Learning
    - f. Dawn Wenner: Cemetery
    - g. Michelle Doose: Staff Support
      - Made changes to their charter on the time of month for meetings. No council acting needed.
    - h. Steve Erickson: Building & Grounds
    - i. Dave Kennedy: Lifelong Learning
    - j. Randy Frey-Hawkins: Congregation & Community Ministry
    - k. Sarah Chambers: Worship and Arts
    - l. Ruth Johnson: Greens
    - m. Aaron Banks: Tech
    - n. Strategic Planning Task Force
      - Reported later in the meeting
    - o. The following have been identified for the Core Planning team
      - i. Carrie Stelter, Gabriella Roemhildt, Ceceli Polzin, Amy Ronkvist, Bruce Gray
    - p. Nancy Timm was asking for some help on selling the quick trip cards on Sundays. She explained the benefits of the fundraiser.
      - Last year Family Fresh cards were grossed \$800 to the church
      - Quick trip Cards grossed \$3500.
      - Maybe stewardship and finance committees selling on Sundays to help
  
9. Unfinished Business
  - a. All staff contracts have been signed
  - b. Council Retreat in March 25th 8:30-11:00 am Dining hall
    - A packet of materials will be emailed strategic plan, committee review, council expectations, constitution
    - Nancy Timm will make sweet rolls, Mary will bring beverages and snacks, and need someone to bring fruit. Randy Frey
    - Cultivating Generous Congregations update
      - Mary reported on the benefits of CGC certainly looked appealing and very appropriate for our ministry context, it has become obvious that the scheduling of the cohort meetings on Tuesdays just doesn't work for FLC.

- Mary stated that *The Generosity Project* would be a great resource. TGP offers a great amount of flexibility in scheduling meetings with our own leaders and has very affordable resources readily available to download.
- Mary also stated that we might still be interested in participating in the Cultivating Generous Congregation program in the future.

#### 10. New Business

- a. Lenten offerings
  - Motion was made to designate the lenten offerings for the soup supper and worship service to St Peter Area Food Shelf and Lutheran Disaster Response to help with earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria, expenses would be taken out first. Second and Carried
- b. It was brought up that FLC will be doing a church directory Sept. 26-30th.
- c. Steve Erickson brought up the use of office space from a non-member. They were looking at 5 hrs a day at \$30. The person did not like the offer so the building and grounds counter offered \$15 a day a week for exclusive office hours and the use of wi-fi.
  - Question was asked by Garrett about the hours. Steve replied Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during opening hours.
  - This person would be meeting with clients
  - At the end Steve said there would be more talks with this person.
- d. Motion was made to donate \$200 from the discretionary fund to the St Peter Friends Library in memory for Margie Nelson (Bill Nelson wife). Bill was our intern pastor and Magie groomed the courtyard. Motion second and carried.

#### 11. Strategic Plan

- a. Mary Spear presented First Lutheran Church Strategic Plan Framework 2023-2028.
- b. More discussion would be during the Council retreat.
- c. Motion was made to approve the FLC Strategic Plan 2023-2028. Second and carried

11. Motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Seconded and carried

12. Lord's Prayer

Next Church Council meeting will be held on April 18 , 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Devotions for April: Grace Timm

Respectfully Submitted

Pat Pehrson

FLC Church Council Secretary