

**First Lutheran Church
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2020 6:30 p.m. via Zoom**

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

Members Present: Gordon Long, Bill Kautt, Pastor Bill Nelsen, Cindy Nadeau, Ken Westphal, Michelle Doose, Garrett Paul, Mary Spear, Shanon Nowell, John Sylvester, Carolyn Trnka, Harry Hunt, Bethany Valentini, Nancy Timm, Steve Erickson, Kim Bovee, David Marlow, Michelle Twait

Members Absent: Mary Thompson, Ryenne Pettis, Raina Roemhildt

1. Call to Order: Bill Kautt at 6:35 p.m.

2. Devotions: Garrett Paul

3. Approval of the Agenda: M/S/C

4. Approval of November 17 Council Minutes M/S/C

5. Pastor’s Report: Interim Pastor Bill Nelsen

A. What I have been busy with:

- Preparing sermons, weekly advent meditations
- One baptism, officiated at a funeral
- Meeting weekly with Emily, special services coming up: Jan. 17- Martin Luther King Sunday, January 24- Reconciling In Christ Sunday with special guest Kari Lipke.
- Committee meetings, staff meetings, synod monthly meetings, MN conference meeting
- Pastor’s Discretionary Fund- helped 5 different families with varying needs.
- Telephone calls and some in person meetings with safety protocols
- Ninth grade confirmation
- Preparing messages for the congregation- two letters:
 1. Small group meetings to discuss FLC future- one council member needed at each meeting to take notes.
 2. Christmas Message

6. President’s Report: Bill Kautt

- A. Thank you to all of those council members leaving us after this meeting who are finished with their term.
- B. Congregational Meeting- numerous people have expressed positive feedback about the online Zoom format. At the Synod Lay Leaders Meeting, many were asking how to set that up successfully!
- C. Contact information for new council members was emailed.
- D. Red Cross Blood Drive was held at FLC on Dec. 1. Went off without a hitch.
- E. End of year committee reports need to be sent to Craig by the end of this calendar year. Council liaisons should meet with individuals to make sure it is done.
- F. Synod Meeting- Thinking about coming back to church in the “vaccination stage.” Stressed making sure we are welcoming and welcoming to everyone.

7. Treasurer’s Report:

Finance committee met and minutes are out. Another \$10,000 did come in from our donor. FC will meet early in January to collect information for the congregational meeting.

8. Informational Reports

- A. Health Advisory Team: Met twice- some discussions about youth activities being postponed. There is a pie delivery to seniors scheduled for Saturday. Waiting until the first of the year to talk about moving forward.
- B. Nominating Committee: Have all our candidates in place for the ballot for Jan. congregational meeting.
- C. Boy Scout Charter: All taken care of. The official rep from our church is Jim Neubauer.

9. Unfinished Business:

- A. Budget:
 - 1. Still working on the proposed budget and will continue to work into January.
 - 2. PPP loan has not yet been forgiven and may fall into next year.
 - 3. This year we may have excess to cover deficits, therefore it is proposed that we increase our synod allocation to 10%.
 - Motion to increase 2020 synod allocation of offering envelopes from 6% to 10% S/C
 - 4. Pledges- What are we doing to encourage those who have not responded? Letter to those who have not been regular givers, follow up with a phone call.
 - 5. 2021 Staffing- Hopefully we will have excess this year. With loans and donations, we have been able to keep staff hours stable and offer a 1.4% increase.
 - Motion to instruct Karen to go ahead and make proposed computations at the beginning of January rather than wait until the end of January when we will vote on the budget at the congregational meeting. Seconded, Discussion
 - A lot of extra work in accounting to wait until the budget is ratified.
 - Not wise practice to go ahead before the budget has been approved.
 - Motion to stop debate S/C
 - Vote on the original motion was voted on and failed.
- B. Committee Charters: Council received updated charters from Building and Grounds, Worship and Arts and Social Justice Committees. Motion to accept as submitted.

10. New Business:

- A. Proposed agenda for congregational meeting. It was agreed to present the agenda to the congregation.
- B. Election of officers: wait to elect officers at the January meeting. Vice President vs. President Elect- postpone this discussion until the January meeting.
- C. Committee Liaisons: new council members should take a look at committees and determine what committee you would be interested in being on as the council liaison, and where liaisons are needed with transition of council members.

11. Good of the Order:

- A. Good question, observation or comment:
 - request to update the picture on our website to something more current. Pastor Bill will bring it up at staff meeting.
 - Thank you to Dave Pehrson for hanging the lights at church
- B. Devotions for January: Michelle Doose.

12. The Lord's Prayer

13. Adjourned: 8:25 pm

Next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2021