

**First Lutheran Church
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2021 6:30 p.m. via Zoom**

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

Members Present: Bill Kautt, Pastor Bill Nelsen, Cindy Nadeau, Garrett Paul, Mary Spear, John Sylvester, Harry Hunt, Bethany Valentini, Nancy Timm, Kim Bovee, Michelle Twait, Raina Roemhildt

Members Absent: Steve Erickson, Michelle Doose, Mary Thompson, David Marlow

1. Call to Order: Bill Kautt at 6:38 p.m.

2. Devotions: Kim Bovee

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

4. Approval of February 16, 2021 Council Minutes M/S/C

5. Pastor’s Report:

- Making a lot of phone calls to members
- Vaccinations: Ask folks about helping to identify those who have not had shots. How can we help those who don’t have internet?
- Worship: Season of Lent, Sunday service and Wednesday meditation worship. Reached out specifically to involve youth and their families. Ash Wednesday was a Zoom service. Zoom Maundy Thursday service with communion. We are distributing palms and communion kits.
- April, May and summer planning is underway.
- Working closely with committees
- Confirmation is May 2, getting confirmands ready for this service.
- Technology has been a staff focus
- Communication- out to members and beyond. Monthly newsletter- please read. Weekly Heartbeat- short

6. President’s Report: Bill Kautt

- Meeting on the 7th for MN Valley Conference of Synod.
- Ken and Patsy Rossow elected to Augustana Association meeting
- Karen has asked about what to do with Lenten offering. Consider giving funds to food shelf . Contributions are doubled in March. Motion to send this year’s Lenten offering to the food shelf S/C
- Confirmation tree planting project: Calleigh has been meeting with city supervisors, Soil and Water District to figure out where the trees will go. City will drill holes. This will happen in April or May.
- City forester was asked to take a look at the Linden tree on the east side of church- There is a gap in the slab and sidewalk. Could be caused by roots. Hazard to check out

7. Treasurer’s Report: Harry Hunt

- End of February:
Building Fund: we owe 1,277, 817 dollars
Balance in reserve is 82,674.00

The finance committee is still working on the budget. 360,088 in cash. 65,616 Y to D Income- again, many prepaid pledges.

Current with benevolence

Expenses 62,941.00 Y to D is 2,613.00 in the black

Endowment Fund- Ruth Larson, Esther Lundquist: Discretion of the council

8. Informational Reports

- A. Health Advisory Team: Met on March 10th with Worship and Arts and Building and Grounds. Guidelines for opening church were drafted by the Health Advisory Team and shared at the meeting. Target date for opening is mid April- maybe April 25th- gives us time to prepare. Soft opening- can't fill up the sanctuary, but want to celebrate. How many people? Team says 50-60. Masks, distancing, no singing- Won't be "normal." Will virtual services continue? Pastor Bill and Emily are willing to do both.
- B. Small Group Discussion and Written Responses Summaries: Special meeting to look at summaries and work on Site Profile. Come up with potential time frame- dining hall with distancing.

9. Unfinished Business:

- A. Staff Member Job Descriptions: staff support yearlong process to revise descriptions by giving responsibilities of staff members rather than tasks. Consistent - input from staff members. Motion to accept job descriptions as revised. Carried
- B. Website Improvement: Outdated pictures, doesn't say that we are a RIC or ELCA church. Need for a group to look at and improve the website. Outreach/Inreach take this on with assistance from Craig? Council will review changes. Motion: Authorize Outreach/Inreach to work with Craig on improving our website with review of council. S/C

10. New Business

- A. Technology Report/Technology Task Force: Ad hoc committee called the technology advisory committee- received three bids to get fiber into our building. Seek members of the church with knowledge of technology to join this committee. What else can we do besides just updating computers? Emily's computer was updated since a donor stepped up to pay for it.
- B. Work Agreements: Set up agreements for all exempt employees. Yearly basis along with job descriptions put in personnel file, and an evaluation process. This is supportive to both staff and church. Motion to accept work agreement with employment year changed to January 1- December 31. Carried
- C. Council's Fiscal Responsibility and Transparency: Motion to approve passage of Guidelines of Fiscal Responsibility and Transparency. S/C

11. Good of the Order:

Should there be a motion from the council to reopen the church? There have been several requests from groups wanting to use the building. Lifeline screening will not be something endorsed by the church. PEO women's organization requested to use the church. They have previously met here, and would like to start meeting in late April. Boy Scouts have also requested to begin meeting in the church again.

Motion: Allow PEO to use the building with appropriate masking and distancing, as well

as blood drives.

Substitute motion to not allow outside groups to use the building until the church is officially open for worship, with the exception of blood drives. S/C

12. Lord's Prayer

13. Adjourn

Next meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2021