

**First Lutheran Church
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2020 6:00 p.m. via Zoom**

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

Members Present: Gordon Long, Intern Miranda, Laura Lindell, John Sylvester, Bill Kautt, Pastor Gwen Hermanson, Harry Hunt, Cindy Nadeau, Ken Westphal, new members Michelle Doose, Garrett Paul, Mary Spear

Members Absent: Sue Gray, Mary Thompson, Reyenne Pettis, Shanon Nowell, Carolyn Trnka

1. Call to Order: Bill Kautt at 6:05 p.m.

2. Devotions: Pastor Gwen

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

4. Approval of Minutes: M/S/C

5. Resignation and Vacant Council Member Replacements:

- A. Accept the resignation of Sue Gray - M/S/C. Bill or Shanon will write a letter of appreciation for Sue's service.
- B. Approve new members for service through December: Michelle Doose, Garrett Paul, Heidi Christensen, Mary Spear - M/S/C

6. Pastor's Report: All impacted by COVID-19

- A. Quarantine Care: Eighteen volunteers are calling 54 seniors per week. Intern Miranda and Pastor Gwen are calling once a month. Others under the age of 80 may need calls.
- B. Online worship and spiritual engagement are offered every day. Moving forward, some people have expressed that they won't attend in person for a while because of health concerns. We will still need an online option.
- C. Intern Miranda will be departing in August. This will be the end of two pastoral people to meet the congregation's needs.
- D. Pastor Gwen will take some vacation time this summer and fall.
- E. Pastor Gwen has invited Thrivent to offer a workshop on how to do paperwork on Advanced Health Care Directives on Tuesday, June 9th at 7:00. Congregation members will be invited to participate.

7. President's Report:

- A. We received a thank you from the synod for our support of missions and other synod programs in 2019.
- B. There have been inquiries about the activities of the reconciliation project. Project was put on hold per synod request since they cancelled all in person meetings. We will be in touch to see when the process can be resumed.
- C. Inquiry about minutes being posted. Minutes aren't posted until they are approved by council. Once approved, they are available via newsletter.
- D. An inquiry was made to Trinity about ways we can work together in the future. There has been no response.
- E. A letter was sent to Josh Drinkall about declaring his council seat vacant. No response has been received.

8. Treasurer's Report:

- A. We have excellent cash flow at present. Our offering income is \$71,229 ahead of projection due to people pre-paying their offering for the year.
- B. There is \$15,418 in the Pastor's Fund which is not part of the budget. A generous donation of \$10,000 was made to assist people during COVID pandemic.
- C. Funds aren't coming in like they should be. We are ok now due to those who prepaid.

9. Informational Reports

- A. Committee Charter Reports: Many committees are not meeting, council reps should try to contact Shanon with the status of charter.
- B. SBA Loan: Harry/ Pioneer Bank
If you qualified for one of these loans and don't really need it, you should send it back. Only one company did this. We need it and it is being used for staff. Things look good now, but needs to last until the end of the year. June 18 will be the end of 8 weeks. We are using 100% for payroll.

10. Unfinished Business:

- A. Approve Ken Rossow as a new Funds Committee Member - M/S/C
- B. Mortgage Recommendations: This is being looked at- tabled until June.
- C. Approve Health Advisory Team: Keith/Carrie Stelter, Mary Hidebrandt, Jessica Stadick. This health care team will meet with staff to advise us how to move forward safely when beginning to start meeting in person.

11. New Business:

- A. Parking Lot Maintenance: Recommendation from Building and Grounds Committee to finance work on the parking lot. Finance committee recommended filling in the cracks for now, and looking at finances and restriping later in the year.
Motion: Approve disbursement for parking lot crack filling. Ask the Finance Committee to check with Nielson to see if it makes sense to also do the walkway between the parking lot and Church St. at the same time. M/S/C
- B. Request to use the Parking Lot: Nicollet County produce distribution. This is something we have done in the FLC parking lot in the past. Discussion about using indoor facilities, and insurance concerns around COVID-19. No use of building will be available.
Motion: We give permission to Nicollet County to distribute food in our parking lot under the conditions that masks be used and that they require that masks be used and social distancing is practiced. M/S/C
- C. Other Concerns: Communion as part of online service
Motion: The council supports Pastor Gwen in her decision to offer communion as part of the online service on May 31st. M/S/C

12. Committee Reports:

- A. Building and Grounds: Beginning improvements in the courtyard. Gathering replacement plants from local landscapers. Also working on the parking lot.
- B. Finance: 50,000 line of credit at Pioneer Bank- collateral. Expenses running ahead of budget. Prepaid offering has allowed things to look good right now, but we will have to see what the trend is moving forward.
- C. Stewardship: Giving Craig the project of updating the church directory.
- D. Worship and Arts: Looking at who is participating in online church. Is there good access to online formats? Emily is reaching out to those who have been worship assistants to be lectors. The organ is in need of repair. Looking at 3 bids. W and A are considering 82,000 or more on repairs. Emily is applying for grants to try to cover at least half of the cost.

13. Good of the Order

- A. Good question, observation, or comment:
 - Reconciliation process- could interviews start electronically? Bill will contact the synod.
 - Cemetery has not been listed under committee reports. Should be included on next agenda. They continue to be actively working during shut down.

14. Lord's Prayer

15. Adjourn- 8pm

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2020