

**First Lutheran Church  
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes  
June 21, 2022, 6:30 p.m. FLC Dining Room**

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

**Members present:** Pastor Chris Culuris, Michelle Doose, Steve Erickson, Harry Hunt, Bill Kautt, Dave Kennedy, Garrett Paul, Mary Spear, Randy Stuckey, Jim Stenson, John Sylvester, Nancy Timm, Michelle Twait

**Members absent:** Sarah Chambers, Raina Roemhildt, Callie Voeltz

1. Call to Order: President, Garrett Paul at 6:32 p.m.
2. Devotions: Michelle Twait
3. Approval of the agenda: M/S
  - a. Amended to omit 10. Part a. “Job descriptions drawn up by John Sylvester, Bookkeeper, Director of Youth and Family Ministry, and Custodian”. This item was carried out at the May Council meeting.
  - b. Carried with amendment.
4. Approval of the May 17, 2022 Minutes: M/S/C
5. **Pastor’s Report:** Pastor Chris Culuris  
Participated in the following activities: Hospital visits: 1, Nursing home visit: 0, Other visits: 11, Confirmation Sunday, Green Committee, Funds Management Committee, Funerals: Dale Haack, Steve Draeger, and Martin Larson, First Holy Communion Sunday for 8 youth, Cemetery Committee, Worship & Arts Committee, New Member Classes, Finance committee, Stewardship committee, CCM committee, Minnesota Valley Conference meeting, Safety presentation with office John Hughes, Blessing for High School Seniors, Troop 58 Court of Honor, Meeting with Ahmed Jama at Islamic Center and First Lutheran, Invocation & Blessing at St. Peter Memorial Day Service
6. **President’s Report:** Garrett Paul  
Working on Stewardship activities for the fall pledge drive and also helping Betsy Paul with First Lutheran’s July 4th parade entry. Joined Pastor Chris, Dave Kennedy and Mary Spear at the Islamic Center for a meeting with Ahmed Jama and Mohamed Abdulkadir. Helping the leadership at the Islamic Center to contact the city administrator about acquiring land or property to build a new Islamic Center in St. Peter.
7. **Treasurer’s Report:** Jim Stenson reported budget figures through May 2022:
  - a. Total Income: \$180,838
  - b. Total Actual Expenses: \$180,073
  - c. Amount ahead: \$1,968
  - d. Building Fund receipts for 2022: \$38,089
  - e. Building Fund Interest and Principal paid 2022: \$60,474
  - f. John Sylvester asked if the personnel line item in budget includes money for severance liability. Jim Stenson said it did not.
8. **Committee Reports**
  - a. **Stewardship:** As part of the fall Stewardship drive, there will be a tent in the parking lot on Sunday, September 18th and every committee is asked to staff a table with information about their committee. The committee is also working on filming some members’ response to the question “How has God impacted your life through First Lutheran Church?”. These short videos will be shown during the month of September. Archival materials of First Lutheran Church will also be on display.

## 9. Health Advisory Team report

There was no meeting of the Health Advisory Team

## 10. Unfinished Business

- a. Facilities Use guidelines from John Sylvester
  - i. Inclement Weather Policy
    1. M/S
    2. Under weekday cancellation: amend statement to read: "If St. Peter School District cancels in-person classes, or is dismissed early, there will be no activities at church on that day."
    3. Policy carried with amendment
  - ii. Property Use Agreement
    1. Concerns from a few council members about "No Alcohol Use Allowed" being too restrictive. Mary Spear and Michelle Doose will look into legal and insurance ramifications of having a statement in this policy that says the Council can have the final say regarding the use of alcohol for a church-sponsored event.
    2. M/S/C
  - iii. Wedding Policy
    1. M/S/C
  - iv. Funeral Policy
    1. M/S/C
- b. Strategic Planning Update
  - i. Volunteers have been identified for the Strategic Planning Task Force and include: Steve Erickson, Harry Hunt, Bill Kautt, Dave Kennedy, Mary Spear, and Carrie Stelter. The following people have expressed interest but have not yet committed to being on the task force: Jan Jensen, Stephanie Menning, and Gabriella Roemhildt.
  - ii. Pastor Chris asked Jeff Olson if he would be interested in acting as a consultant to the task force. He said he would be interested in helping. The five council members serving on the task force will meet with him to discuss what his consulting fee will be.
- c. Safety and Security
  - i. Garrett Paul said arrangements will be made to bring in a police officer to make a presentation to the congregation that will include an emergency plan in case of an active shooter. The presentation will take place following a worship service sometime in September. Michelle Doose will contact the St. Peter Police Dept. to see when someone would be available to give a presentation. Pastor Chris will give a monthly temple talk (microphone and cameras turned off during this talk) to inform the congregation that we are planning this safety presentation.
- d. Nursery
  - i. Diane Stenson and Michelle Doose agreed to be co-coordinators of the Nursery task force.
  - ii. A suggested charge for the Nursery Task force is:
    1. Nursery to be up and running for Fall
    2. Identify responsibility to oversee nursery in the future including background checks, scheduling, payment
    3. Identify best location
    4. Identify furnishings and supplies
    5. Suggestions for Strategic Planning Task Force

## 11. New Business

- a. July 4th parade
    - i. The CCM committee is making preparations for the First Lutheran July 4th parade entry. Volunteers will be decorating the float after the July 3rd worship service. Committee liaisons should recruit volunteers from their respective committees to be a part of our parade float.
  - b. Gun Violence
    - i. Jim Stenson distributed a packet of information about gun violence he shared with church leaders in the area.
    - ii. Garrett Paul asked council members to read and reflect on the materials and bring one concrete idea our church could do to address the issue of gun violence to the August council meeting.
  - c. Condition of Sunday School rooms, facilities, supplies
    - i. Bill Kautt reminded committee liaisons to notify their committee members to check SS rooms for the possibility of stored items they may have forgotten about. Several of the rooms are disorganized and the items they contain need to be identified as something to keep, donate or discard. The items identified for keeping will need to be organized.
  - d. Request from St. Peter Islamic Center
    - i. Tables and chairs owned by First Lutheran were requested by a representative of the Center for a "Tea and Talk" event at the Islamic Center.
    - ii. An email vote of Church Council members approved the request. A property use agreement will need to be completed by the Center.
12. Good of the order
- a. Jim Stenson reported that he received an email from Pastor Dennis Johnson who was in town for a funeral. Pastor Johnson said Resurrection Cemetery never looked better.
  - b. Potential changes to First's Congregational Constitution
    - i. Bill Kautt asked council members to review the document he sent with proposed changes to the constitution. Items with an asterisk are not required to be included in the constitution so we as a congregation can decide if we want them included.
13. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m. M/S/C
14. Pr. Chris led us in the Lord's Prayer

Next Church Council meeting will be held on August 16, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Dining Room

Devotions for August: Bill Kautt

*Approved 8/16/2022*