

First Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2022, 6:30 p.m. FLC Dining Room

“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, Harry Hunt, Bill Kautt, Dave Kennedy, Mary Spear, Nancy Timm, Michelle Twait

Members absent: Sarah Chambers, Garrett Paul, Jim Stenson, Randy Stuckey, John Sylvester, Callie Voeltz

1. Call to Order: Vice President, Michelle Doose at 6:36 p.m.
2. Devotions: Bill Kautt
3. Approval of the agenda: M/S
 - a. Amended to add 8 c. “Report from Fundraising Committee”
 - b. Carried with amendment.
4. Approval of the June 21, 2022 Minutes: M/S/C
5. **Pastor’s Report:** Pastor Chris Culuris
 - a. Participated in the following activities for September: Hospital visits: 2, Nursing home visit: 1, Assisted Living/Office/Others: 15, Funeral: Joan Miller, Graveside Services: Audrey McTighe and Duane Engdahl, Committee meetings: Staff Support, Worship & Arts, Finance & Stewardship, Green, Executive, Building & Grounds, resumed weekly Holy Communion, Strategic Planning Task Force, SW MN Synod Compensation & Portico Zoom meeting, Mankato Pride parade, God’s Work our Hands Sunday, St.Peter Area Ministerium, Trivia & Hymns at Parkview Manor, Stewardship Sunday Kick off, MN River Valley Conference meeting, Confirmation orientation & Acolyte training, Fall Theological Conference at Luther Crest Bible Camp, First Confirmation Class (9/28), Upcoming vacation time:
 - i. October 19-25, Pastor Ted Kunze covering worship and Gordon Long covering emergencies
 - ii. October 26-Nov. 1, Continuing Education, Garrett Paul covering worship and Gordon Long covering emergencies
 - iii. Dec. 8-14, Pastor Steve Kidder covering worship
6. **President’s Report:** Michelle Doose reporting for Garrett Paul
 - a. Created display of archival materials in the Gathering Space of the church with help from church archivist David Fienen.
 - b. Observed new members and past members returning to worship at October 9 worship service.
 - c. Continue to remind people to return their estimate of giving cards and time and talent surveys.
 - d. Thank you to the congregational council and church staff for their time and many gifts offered to the church.

7. **Treasurer's Report:** Harry Hunt reporting for the absent Jim Stenson
 - a. Actual income less expenses through September -\$24,508
 - b. Net amount ahead (+) or behind (-) our projections through Sept. -\$8,651
 - c. Committees need to get budget requests to Karen Smithers before November 1
 - d. Funds Management will meet the last week of October to determine endowment money available to committees for next year.
 - e. The requested contribution of \$1,500 to "The Kitchen" has been paid.
 - f. Estate Planning Workshop on Oct. 16 was led by attorney Chris Paul. Harry Hunt commented we don't have a financial planning officer to guide people with charitable giving to the church and need to have someone serve in this capacity.
 - g. Harry Hunt will contact Randy Stuckey, council liaison to the Stewardship Committee, to find someone to serve as a financial planning officer.
8. **Committee Reports**
 - a. **Social Justice**
 - i. "The Kitchen" Monday night community meal will be served by First Lutheran on Nov. 21.
 - ii. Jack Spear has been trained as a ServeSafe Food Manager and will help First Lutheran with implementing the meal.
 - b. **Report on current status of estimates of giving**
 - i. Estimate of giving pledges: 65 pledges totalling \$210,00 have been pledged to date compared with 109 pledges totalling \$312,000 last year at this time.
 - ii. Building pledges: 53 pledges totalling \$303,000 have been pledged. We need \$360,000 over a 3 year period to cover our monthly mortgage payments.
 - iii. Michelle Doose suggested we share the pledge information with the congregation through a newsletter article.
 - iv. Harry Hunt will ask Randy Stuckey to have the Stewardship Committee submit a newsletter article thanking people for their pledges, telling them where we are with our estimate of giving pledges and asking people to submit their pledges.
 - c. **Fundraising Committee**
 - i. Nancy Timm is coordinating a Soup and Chili Cookoff with Pie/Dessert Auction which will take place Sunday, November 20th after Worship to raise money for the church. Various soups prepared by members will be offered for tasting and members will vote with their money on which soup they like the best. The winner of the soup competition will receive the Ladle Trophy. Also, desserts (and maybe lefse too) will be auctioned off.
 - ii. We need to recruit an experienced auctioneer for the Soup/Chili Cook Off and Dessert Auction.
 - iii. Nancy Timm will be selling Kwik Trip, Family Fresh, and Domino's Pizza scrip cards after worship on Sundays that she is available. She would like to have other council members and Stewardship and Finance Committee members help on those Sundays when she is not available.

9. Health Advisory Team report: No report was given.

10. Strategic Planning Task Force Report

- a. A meeting of the Strategic planning task force team with consultant Jeff Olson will take place on Thursday, November 10. The plan is to finalize the meeting schedule and put together a volunteer list of core team members for recruitment.

11. Unfinished Business

- a. Lease Agreement with Ecumen Pathstone Living
 - i. Bill Kautt shared a copy of the revised lease agreement
 - ii. Amendment to the lease included
 - 1. clarification of the hours and operation of use to be 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It was mentioned that Monday - Friday should be added. The tenant shall have provided access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
 - iii. The current lease does not require a security deposit. Nancy Timm expressed concern that without a security deposit, the church would be financially responsible if damage occurs to the space.
 - iv. Harry Hunt will ask attorney Paul Tanis to review the lease including the security deposit issue.
 - v. The President of the congregational council will sign off on the lease as well as the Pastor if a second signature is required.

12. New Business

- a. Pastor's compensation package for 2023
 - i. Executive committee reviewed Pastor Chris's compensation package for 2023 at their meeting on October 8th.
 - ii. Motion to approve compensation package of \$77,906 compensation plus \$36,587 benefits for a total compensation of \$114,493 for 2023 with the option to reopen if the Portico health benefit has a dramatic increase in insurance cost.
 - iii. Motion seconded and carried.
- b. Approval of Boy Scout Charters
 - i. Motion to approve Boy Scout Charters for Troop No. 58 and Pack No. 58
 - ii. Seconded and Carried
- c. New church directory
 - i. Pastor Chris asked area churches if they knew of a company who is in the church directory business since LifeTouch no longer does church directories. The Church of St. Peter used Unique Church Solutions and Pastor Chris provided a link to their website.
 - ii. Several years ago, our Office Coordinator, Craig Wolf, implemented an online church directory that used a mobile application called CTRN. This app was not widely used and we are not sure of the current status of our membership with this organization as there is a monthly fee to maintain it.
 - iii. Motion to table this issue and put it on the November agenda. S/C

13. **Good of the Order:** Dave Kennedy enjoyed the FLC's Got Talent show. He also commented on the trees that were planted at the edge of the church's property to the east. Bill Kautt said that they were trees the City of St. Peter obtained from a program to replace Ash trees that were taken down.
14. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. followed by the Lord's Prayer

Next Church Council meeting will be held on November 15, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.
Devotions (and possible treats!) for November: Nancy Timm