

First Lutheran Church  
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes  
**September 20, 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:** Sarah Chambers, Pastor Chris Culuris, Michelle Doose, Steve Erickson, Harry Hunt, Bill Kautt, Dave Kennedy, Garrett Paul, Mary Spear, Randy Stuckey, John Sylvester, Michelle Twait

**Members absent:** Jim Stenson, Nancy Timm, Callie Voeltz

1. Call to Order: President, Garrett Paul at 6:32 p.m.
2. Devotions: Randy Stuckey
3. Approval of the agenda: M/S
  - a. Amended to remove 11 a. “Final FLC Staff Handbook” as this was dealt with at a previous council meeting per John Sylvester
  - b. Amended to remove 12 a. “Fund Balance Resolution” as this was dealt with at a previous council meeting per Harry Hunt.
  - c. Carried with amendments.
4. Approval of the June 21, 2022 Minutes: M/S
  - a. Bill Kautt was unintentionally omitted from Members Absent.
  - b. Carried with amendment.
5. **Pastor’s Report:** Pastor Chris Culuris
  - a. Participated in the following activities for August: Hospital visits: 3, Nursing home visit: 2, Assisted Living/Home/Office: 13, Continuing Education Aug. 1-7, Funeral: Marilyn Flinger, Cemetery Committee, Executive Committee, CCM committee, Worship & Arts Committee, received 11 new members, Wednesday evening Bible study & Chapel service 8/10 and 8/17, Finance Committee, Stewardship Committee, Green Committee, Social Justice Committee, Safety & Security Workshop 8/18, Annual review with Emily Bruflat, Premarital prep with Amanda Hoehn and Brady Tart, Wedding for Ben Johnson and Hannah Kleschult
  - b. 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:** Garrett Paul
  - a. Received numerous queries as to why Father Harry’s gift of art is not on permanent display in the church.
  - b. Made contact with St. Peter Islamic Center representative Ahmed Jama and will tour the area to look at available properties for sale as the Islamic Center wants

to build a new mosque in St. Peter. The Islamic Center asked us to help them find some property available for sale.

- c. Received a resignation from Raina Roemhildt. She is our youth representative on the church council but she no longer has the time to devote to the council.
- d. Attended Zoom meeting of area congregational council presidents
  - i. Importance of having virtual worship services but would like to explore options of how viewers could be included in the service. Could we include them as readers or musicians?
  - ii. We should visit other congregations during worship to see what they are doing.
  - iii. Evaluate our building and grounds and see if any areas need attention.
  - iv. In terms of stewardship, we should let people know what their giving accomplishes in the life of the church.
  - v. Shared how a congregation can support their pastor.
  - vi. Do we engage visitors with a welcome and a smile?
  - vii. If there is conflict between the church council and the congregation, it is important to determine what values are driving the opposition and to be transparent.

**7. Treasurer's Report:**

- a. Jim Stenson was absent. Harry Hunt reported that the most recent income figure was \$270,000 and expenses were \$284,000.

**8. Committee Reports**

- a. **Staff Support** to discuss sick leave policy for Pastor Chris at their October meeting.

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

**10. Strategic Task Force Report**

- a. A handout of the Strategic Planning Process developed by consultant Jeff Olson was distributed to council members
- b. The following council members will be on the strategic planning task force: Pastor Chris, Steve Erickson, Harry Hunt, Bill Kautt, Dave Kennedy, Garrett Paul and Mary Spear. Additional members of the congregation will be asked to be a part of the task force to form a diverse and representative group of our church. Jeff Olson said he will provide his services at no charge.
- c. Motion to adopt strategic planning process and use Jeff Olson as a consultant
- d. Seconded and carried.

**11. Unfinished Business**

- a. Safety and Security
  - i. After consulting with the St. Peter Police department and the Nicollet County Sheriff's dept., we concluded that we will have to develop our own plan for safety and security.
  - ii. It was proposed we develop a task force to come up with a plan. The following congregational members were identified as potential candidates for this task force: Windy Block, Michelle Doose, Pat Pehrson, Darryl

Pettis, and Dawn Wenner. Garrett Paul will contact these people to see if they are willing to serve.

- iii. Pr. Chris attended a Zoom meeting on safety and security featuring Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Cloud. He will contact them to obtain information about their safety and security plans as a basis for developing our own plans.
- b. Report on Ecumen and Dana Melius and Trish Hiscock-Austin rental arrangements
  - i. Ecumen will visit FLC on 9/22 to tour the basement and look at the floor plan to determine what they need to do to get the area ready. They will pay \$1,100/month in rent.
  - ii. The Church's Liability coverage is included as part of this rental agreement as long as they sign our property use agreement.
  - iii. Trish Hiscock-Austin will look at potential office space this week. If she chooses to rent office space, the amount of rent will be the non-member rate of \$30/day. Dave Kennedy asked if they could have the member rate of \$15/day since they are a not for profit organization. No decision was made on that suggestion but Bill Kautt will report back at our next council meeting.
- c. Nursery
  - i. Youth and Family Ministry Director, Calleigh Carlson is receptive to moving the Nursery back to its original location which is across the hallway from the worship space. She asked that the space be available for Sunday school classes for pre-k and Kindergarten. Garrett Paul said this could be a potential conflict as we would like to provide nursery care during the Sunday school time.
- d. Budget Preparation
  - i. Budgets from committees should be submitted to Karen Smithers sometime in October. Money available from endowments will be determined in October and that information given to committees.

## **12. New Business**

- a. Request from Social Justice for funding for "The Kitchen" (community meals at Trinity)
  - i. The planning committee for The Kitchen is requesting participating churches contribute a one time amount of \$1,500 to cover startup costs.
  - ii. The Social Justice committee approved \$608 from its endowment and budget for "The Kitchen".
  - iii. Motion to approve \$392 from Ruth Larson endowment to be used for The Kitchen.
  - iv. Seconded and carried.
  - v. This brings our total amount raised to \$1,000. We need an additional \$500 to meet the request. Harry Hunt will meet with Karen to see if we have additional funds in the budget to cover this amount.
- b. Motion to set aside \$70,000 from surplus fund for the purpose of organ repairs.

- i. Seconded and carried.
  - c. Inquiry about setting up permanent video facilities in sanctuary
    - i. Harry Hunt reported that the estimate he received from Best Buy to set up permanent video facilities would be anywhere from \$21,000-\$25,000.
    - ii. This cost was deemed prohibitive at this time.
  - d. Garrett Paul would like to set up tours of the church building highlighting the new construction and updates to the building as part of the Stewardship campaign
    - i. It was suggested that this would be a good First Forum activity. Garrett will contact Calleigh Carlson to check on availability for a Sunday First Forum.
- 13. **Good of the Order:** Dave Kennedy expressed his appreciation to the Stewardship Committee for all their good work putting together Stewardship Sunday events and the video recordings.
- 14. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m. followed by the Lord's Prayer

Next Church Council meeting will be held on October 18, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Devotions for October: Bill Kautt