

First Lutheran Church  
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes  
**April 19, 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, Raina Roemhildt, Mary Spear, John Sylvester, Randy Stuckey, Nancy Timm, Michelle Twait

**Members absent:** Sarah Chambers, Jim Stenson, Callie Voeltz

1. Call to Order: President, Garrett Paul at 6:29 p.m.
2. Devotions: Nancy Timm
3. Approval of the agenda: M/S with the following amendments:
  - #9. Health Advisory to discuss implications of increased cases of COVID-19;
  - #10 Unfinished Business add g. Fellowship committee concerns regarding Facilities Use document;
  - #8 Committee Reports add b. Lifelong Learning and youth involvementCorrection: #4 approval of March 15 minutes not April 19 minutes.  
Amendments carried.
4. Approval of the March 15, 2022 minutes: M/S, Harry Hunt unintentionally omitted from Absent list. Carried with correction.
5. **Pastor's Report:** Pastor Chris Culuris  
Participated in the following activities: Nursing home visit: 1, Other visits: 15, Green Committee, Staff Support Committee, Ash Wednesday Worship, Yearly Pastor's report to Bishop Pederson, Interview with St. Peter Herald, "New to the SWMN Synod Zoom meeting, Executive Committee, abbreviated Confirmation classes, Lenten evening services, Graveside service for Martin Larson, Health Advisory Team meeting, MN Valley Conference meeting, signed Staff Members' contracts, CCM meeting, South African partnership meeting, Premarital meeting with engaged couple, LLL Committee meeting, Easter Preaching Workshop, Contacted Pastor Troy Pflibsen re: strategic vision planning and use of a consultant.
6. **President's Report:** Garrett Paul  
Doesn't want involvement in South African partnership to eclipse our long-standing ties and work with Tanzania, Africa.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** Harry Hunt substituting for Jim Stenson  
Total receipts/donations for the building fund for 2022: \$31,668  
Building Fund Balance as of 4/11: \$1.2 million  
Total Income through March: \$122,137  
Actual Expenses through March: \$107,255  
Projections: (16,905)  
John Sylvester asked about money available in the budget for Severance payouts. Harry will look into that issue.

## 8. Committee Reports

- a. **Finance Committee:** Emily Bruflat is concerned about a shortfall of approximately \$1,300 in the Worship and Arts budget for Professional Development and Continuing Education which will affect her sabbatical. John Sylvester said we agreed as a council to fund her sabbatical in full and we should meet that obligation. Harry Hunt said that there is \$5,800 in endowment funds that the Church Council can use at its discretion. Bill Kautt said there is a budget line item \$750 for substitute organists that has not been used and that could be used to partially fund the difference.
  1. Motion to use the budget line item \$750 for substitute organist and \$550 from the Esther Holmquist Endowment Fund to fully fund Emily's Professional Development and Continuing Education budget that will be used during her sabbatical. M/S/C
- b. **Building and Grounds:** Stained glass window inspection will take place on 4/26.
- c. **Lifelong Learning Committee:** Raina Roemhildt presented ideas she and Direction of Youth and Family Ministry, Calleigh Carlson, developed. These include: continuing using youth as Acolytes, Tech help and greeting, service project opportunities, combined high school youth group, Monday night kitchen at Trinity, St. Peter Area Foodshelf including Grocery Store Races. New ideas include: Wednesday night study group, game nights, Gustavus music group "Proclaim" for Wednesday night services, efforts to bring back 10th-12th grade students. These efforts can be marketed through social media (Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok), the Remind App, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes organization.

## 9. Health Advisory Team report

### Addendum 1: Report of Health Advisory Team

- 1) Masks: masks are "recommended but not required within First Lutheran." Any masks will do. They do not have to be surgical grade but we do recommend wearing cloth masks or surgical masks but not wearing gators. In any outdoor space, no masks are needed.
- 2) Holy Communion: Holy Communion may be offered on a continuous basis. Worshippers would approach the chancel to receive the bread at one station and then go to the side to receive the wine from an assisting minister before leaving their plastic disposable cups in a basket at the end of the pew on their way back to their pew. We may also continue to use up our supply of Holy Communion kits while worshipers are seated in their pews.
- 3) Fellowship: the team advised having fellowship outside whenever the weather allows. If there are poor weather conditions, then people may gather at the tables in the Gathering Space or in the Dining Hall for food and coffee, lemonade, etc.

- 4) Offering Plates: we will continue our current practice of leaving the offering plates on the usher's stand in the Gathering Space.
- 5) Sign of Peace: the team advised that we bump elbows, make a peace sign with our fingers, wave, bow respectfully to one another, etc.. but not shake hands. Too many germs are spread through shaking hands.
- 6) We will continue to have hand sanitizer and masks available for people to use within First.
- 7) We will continue to encourage everyone to use their best judgment as to the safety protocols they need to follow personally. If a person has a compromised immune system, then they should wear a mask and be cautious. If a person is ill, then they should stay home and not attend functions at First until they are healthy once again. People need to decide their own risk level and act accordingly.

Motion to change #1 from masks recommended but not required within First Lutheran” to masks are “urged but not required within First Lutheran”. M/S/C

## 10. Unfinished Business

- a. Nancy Timm has been volunteering to sell Kwik Trip, Family Fresh, and Dominoes Scrip cards in the gathering space after Worship. She is seeking additional volunteers for this activity. Harry requested that she provide the council with an update on how much we have received from this program to date.
- b. Strategic Planning
  - i. Committee liaisons should seek one person from their respective committees to volunteer to be on a strategic planning team. Liaisons should report back to the council at the May meeting with names.
  - ii. Pastor Chris reports that SW MN Synod Pastor Troy Pflibsen recommends the Joshua Group at <https://www.kairosandassociates.com/joshua-group> or the other option being two women Pastor Troy has worked with in the past. They each have an MBA and one woman has worked with NGOs while the other has experience working in corporate America. Council members should look into the Joshua Group at their website and report back at the May Council meeting their impressions. Pastor Chris will provide more information to council members about the two women who worked with Pastor Troy.c
- c. Will information will be presented by Chris Paul at the First Forum preferably on September 25, 2022. Garrett requested Raina R. check with the LLL committee that the day is available.
- d. Safety and security presentation by officer John Hughes will take place on Wednesday, May 18th at 6:30 p.m.
- e. e . Report on securing equipment
  - i. The Tech Committee has not yet decided the best way to secure equipment but will report back when that decision has been made.

f. **Addendum 3: Constitutional Amendment**

This provision comes from the “Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 2019”.

**C10.08. This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.**

This would be something entirely new that could be added to First’s congregational constitution. This would not replace or strike any existing verbiage in First’s current congregational constitution. The rationale for including this amendment is to allow for greater participation on the part of First’s members in our congregational meetings.

**Addendum 4: Constitutional Amendment**

Existing Language

**C13.02** A **Nominating Committee** of six voting members of this congregation, two of whom, if possible, shall be outgoing members of the Congregation Council, shall be elected at the January meeting of the congregation for a term of one year. Members of the nominating committee are not eligible for consecutive reelection.

Replace with the following language

**C13.02** A **Nominating Committee** shall consist of six voting members of this congregation. Three members shall be elected at the January meeting of the congregation each year for a term of two years. If possible, at least one member elected, shall be an outgoing member of the Congregation Council. Members of the nominating committee are not eligible for consecutive reelection.

The first year of the transition, three members will be elected for a one-year term, and, three members will be elected for a two-year term.

**Constitutional Amendments C10.08 and C13.02 M/S/C**

- g. **Fellowship Committee** would like the Facilities Use document to state that linens are not included for use when outside groups use the facility for an event.

## 11. New Business

- a. Motion that the minutes record the Pastor's housing allowance of \$15,759 for 2022. M/S/C
  - i. Future minutes will record the Pastor's housing allowance in the December minutes
- b. There will be an ad hoc Constitutional Committee composed of Bill Kautt, John Sylvester, Ken Westphal and Pastor Chris Culuris to review our current Constitution and review any mandatory changes ade at the Churchwide Assembly.
- c. Lenten contributions allocation
  - i. Motion to allocate Lenten contributions of \$150 to school in Budapest that is educating Ukrainian refugee children. M/S/C
- d. Perpetual Giving Tree: Nancy Timm
  - i. Establish an ongoing giving tree similar to the giving tree put up during the Christmas holiday for people to give to specific needs of the church including the Pastor's discretionary fund.
  - ii. Motion made to establish a perpetual giving tree that would come under the auspices of the Stewardship Committee. M/S/C
- e. Request from CCM to re-open Nursery
  - i. CCM requests we staff the Nursery as a welcoming gesture, to free up parents of small children to participate in church activities, and a way to involve youth interested in working in the Nursery.
  - ii. Person(s) staffing the Nursery would have to be paid and that is not included in our 2022 budget.
  - iii. Motion to allocate \$750 from the budget line item for lock-up purposes to the Nursery fund and keep the remaining \$750 in the lock-up budget. M/S/C
- f. Emergency relief and vouchers by St. Peter Police Department
  - i. Pastor Chris would like us to consider contributing to this fund in light of the service it provides to the Pastor. Other churches are currently contributing to this fund.
  - ii. The council agreed this would be a good use of the Pastor's Discretionary Fund money. Pastor Chris will ask other church leaders what their congregation gives to this fund.
- g. Good of the Order: Several council members thanked Pastor Chris for the meaningful Lenten, Holy Week and Easter worship opportunities.

12. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

13. Pr. Chris led us in the Lord's Prayer