

First Lutheran Church  
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes  
**May 17, 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:** Sarah Chambers, Pastor Chris Culuris, Steve Erickson, Harry Hunt, Bill Kautt, Dave Kennedy, Garrett Paul, Mary Spear, Randy Stuckey, Michelle Twait

**Members absent:** Michelle Doose, Raina Roemhildt, Jim Stenson, John Sylvester, Nancy Timm, Callie Voeltz

1. Call to Order: President, Garrett Paul at 6:33 p.m.
2. Devotions: Jim Stenson was scheduled but was absent from the meeting. Pastor Chris shared devotions with the group.
3. Approval of the agenda: M/S/C
4. Approval of the April 19, 2022 Minutes: M/S/C
5. **Pastor’s Report:** Pastor Chris Culuris  
Participated in the following activities: Hospital visits: 1, Nursing home visit: 1, Other visits:15, Green Committee, SW MN Synod Zoom meeting, Youth event at Christ Chapel, abbreviated Confirmation classes & Lenten Worship services, Staff Support Committee, Executive Committee, abbreviated Confirmation classes, Maundy Thursday service, Good Friday service, Easter Vigil service, Easter Sunday service, Health Advisory Team meeting, Funeral for Paul and Helen Baumgartner, CCM committee meeting, LLL Committee meeting, Stewardship committee meeting, Building & Grounds committee meeting, Finance committee meeting, Baptismal prep for Rilynn Kurth, Youth service project for Camp Noah, Trivia and introductions at Parkview Manor, Gustavus Association of Congregations report from Julie Johnson was shared.
6. **President’s Report:** Garrett Paul  
Has been on vacation but spent time on issues related to opening of Nursery at church and a confidential matter regarding visitation of homebound members.
7. **Treasurer’s Report:** Jim Stenson was absent so no report was given.
8. **Committee Reports**
  - a. **Social Justice:** Mary Spear reported that we are sponsoring an Afghan refugee family in partnership with Trinity Lutheran and Union Presbyterian churches. Our church considered changing sponsorship to a Somali family since the Afghan family did not have an English speaking member. Without an English speaking member, we would not be able to be in direct virtual contact with the family however, the other churches involved still wanted to sponsor an Afghan family. Pastor Chris shared that a weekly email will be sent from our church groups and translated for the family.
  - b. **Building and Grounds:**
    - i. Stained glass window inspection revealed two minor cracks in windows on the east side of the building but nothing that needs immediate attention. The inspector did state that the outside coating on the windows

could be replaced and that would allow more light to enter the sanctuary. The cost estimate for the new coating was \$140,913. We will not pursue the new coating at this time.

- ii. A roof drain above the office area needed repair and the cost was roughly \$1,000.
- iii. Outdoor Worship will be held on the west side of the church building.

#### **9. Health Advisory Team report**

Michelle Doose contacted Carrie Stelter, a member of the health advisory team, about the safety of re-opening the Nursery. Carrie said it was okay to re-open the Nursery.

#### **10. Unfinished Business**

- a. Approval of the revised job descriptions for the FLC Office Coordinator, Bookkeeper, Director of Youth and Family Ministry, and Custodian
  - i. Bill Kautt asked if hours required for the position should be included in the job description. After some discussion it was decided that Pastor Chris will keep the hours required of the position in the personnel files and it would not need to be included in the job descriptions.
  - ii. Vote to approve revised job descriptions was unanimous.
- b. Discussion of the suggested revisions to existing FLC policies and planning guides was tabled until the June meeting.
- c. Kwik Trip card staffing
  - i. Currently there is no plan in place to staff a table after Worship to sell scrip cards. Harry Hunt suggested each committee take a month to sell the cards. After some discussion, it was decided to wait to make a decision until Nancy Timm was present at the council meeting.
- d. Strategic Planning Update
  - i. Some committees have identified volunteers but those people would like to know how much of a time commitment is required and when the group would commence. Garrett thought that the commitment level would be about 5-6 months meeting once per month. We would like to get started as soon as possible but that will depend on whether we use an outside consultant and their availability.
  - ii. Pastor Chris was in contact with a consultant from the Joshua Group and their consultant fees are \$22,000 plus per diem of \$100 when on the road. This cost was deemed too high so we will not pursue their services.
  - iii. Two other possible consultants would be another group the SW MN Synod recommended and Jeff Olson, a member of our congregation who has experience with strategic planning.
  - iv. Pastor Chris will ask the Synod for information on the other consultant group and Pastor Chris will contact Jeff Olson and see if he would be interested.
- e. Report on securing equipment

- i. The Tech Committee is considering securing the equipment in a separate room that could be locked when not in use but a final decision has not been made.
- f. Nursery
  - i. It has not been determined what committee will be responsible for the Nursery. CCM, Lifelong Learning and Worship and Arts all have an interest in the Nursery but feel it is too big of an undertaking for just their committee alone to administer.
  - ii. Garrett suggested we form an Ad Hoc Nursery Committee with members from CCM, LLL, and Worship & Arts in addition to someone with early childhood education experience. Garrett will contact Diane Stenson to see if she would be willing to bring together this committee.
  - iii. At this time, the Nursery is available to families to use but there is work to be done before we formally staff and advertise it to the congregation.
- g. Prayer Partners Plus and Communion visitation
  - i. Pastor Chris said we will continue with the prayer partners and communion visitation people who have been trained and commissioned for service but we will not be adding any new people to this program until further notice.

#### **11. New Business**

- a. Jim Stenson would like to start a group with area churches to address gun violence but since he was absent we did not enter into a discussion on this topic.
  - b. Bill Kautt would like an update from the finance committee and some insight into the current financial status of our congregation at our next meeting.
12. Good of the order: ideas, thoughts, affirmations
13. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.
14. Pr. Chris led us in the Lord's Prayer

Next Church Council meeting will be held on June 21, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Dining Room  
Devotions for June: Michelle Twait