

First Lutheran Church  
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes  
**August 16, 2022**, 6:30 p.m. FLC Courtyard

“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, Dave Kennedy, Garrett Paul, Mary Spear, Randy Stuckey, Jim Stenson, John Sylvester, Nancy Timm, Michelle Twait

**Guests:** Trish Hiscock-Austin (Grass & Roots Outdoors), Carol Solberg, Betty Thompson

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

1. Call to Order: President, Garrett Paul at 6:32 p.m.
2. Devotions: Dave Kennedy
3. Approval of the agenda: M/S
  - a. Amended to change 8.a. Business from Staff Support Committee,
  - b. Amended to add 8 e. Stewardship Sunday, 8.f. Congregation and Community Ministry budget question, 8.g. Technology Committee Charter, 11.c Day of Hope
  - c. Amended to delete 10 b. Job descriptions drawn up by John Sylvester, Bookkeeper, Director of Youth and Family Ministry, and Custodian, 10 c. Facilities use guidelines from John Sylvester. These two items were approved at the June Council meeting.
  - d. Carried with amendments.
4. Approval of the June 21, 2022 Minutes: M/S/C
5. **Pastor’s Report:** Pastor Chris Culuris  
Participated in the following activities for June and July: Hospital visits: 1, Nursing home visit: 2, Assisted Living/Home/Office: 32, Constitution Review meetings: 2, Graveside Service: Barb Wiedow, Funeral: Tom Stenson, Service at Heritage Meadows: 1, Service at Benedictine Care Community: 5, Service at Ecumen Sand Prairie and Ecumen Prairie Hill: 1, South African Partnership Meeting at Immanuel, New Auburn, Holy Baptism: Rilynn Kurth and Emma Thompson, CCM committee, New Member class, Wednesday evening Bible study & Chapel service: 4, Finance meeting, Stewardship meeting, Executive Committee, Building & Grounds Committee, Greeting at VBS Trinity, “Tea and Talk with Neighbor at Islamic Center, 4th of July Parade, Vacation: 7/10-7/23,
6. **President’s Report:** Garrett Paul  
Conversations with potential tenants, Ecumen and New Foundations nonprofit. Contacted Islamic Center liaison to follow up on their plans for a new Islamic Center but have not heard back from them.
7. **Treasurer’s Report:** Jim Stenson did not have a report due to recent absences but Harry Hunt gave a positive report regarding income and deficits for the church budget.

## 8. Committee Reports

- a. **Funeral Service List:** Guests Carol Solberg and Betty Thompson who serve on the Fellowship Committee proposed that we modify our current funeral service lists from having every member choosing a month to serve because this system is not working. The new service team for funerals would comprise 5 teams of 8 people with 2 coordinators per team to serve funerals. These teams would rotate serving funerals to avoid having any one team serve multiple times in one month. Carol and Betty have identified people to serve on these teams. They also proposed that all food served at the funeral be catered by the family of the deceased. First Lutheran would serve the catered food and provide beverages as well as cleaning up. M/C
- b. **Staff Support:**
  - i. Committee charter presented for approval with a change from activities presented by calendar month to list form. M/C
  - ii. Flex Time Proposal: Flex Time to be used in place PTO must be made up during the pay period in which it is used. M/C
  - iii. Director of Music job description to delete from "Responsibilities D.a. "and Altar Guild Meetings". M/C
  - iv. Revise all existing pronoun references in staff member job descriptions to read, "He/She/They" and "he/she/they", respectively. M/C
  - v. Randy Stuckey expressed concern that Pr. Chris did not get to have a full vacation because of his illness during his July vacation period. Discussion about how Pr. Chris's vacation time is documented in his Letter of Call. Pr. Chris will check his Letter of Call and report this to the Executive Committee. The Committee will review and make a recommendation to Council at the September meeting.
- c. **Social Justice:** Members from Trinity Lutheran, First Lutheran, Union Presbyterian, and Church of St. Peter churches are planning to revive the Monday night free community meal program. There is a request from the group that each church make a one-time contribution of \$1,500 to help with startup costs. Other sources of funding are also being pursued.
  - i. John Sylvester asked if there is a way our church name could be included in advertising for the program.
  - ii. If council approves, Harry Hunt said a request would have to be made to the Finance Committee
  - iii. Jim Stenson asked if there was a mission statement.
  - iv. Council did express support for the program but referred the request back to the Social Justice Committee for answers to the above questions. Mary Spear will provide this information to Marilyn Kochsiek, who will attend the planning meeting of the group.
- d. **Worship and Arts:** Budget request for 2023.
  - i. No action taken. This is to be submitted to Finance when budget information is requested for 2023.
- e. Stewardship Sunday

- i. Beverages and light snack will be provided by Fellowship Committee
- f. **CCM:** asked if each Committee should have their own Marketing budget or if all Marketing should be under their Committee.
  - i. Discussion about the value of having all Marketing come under one Committee but the issue was not resolved.
- g. **Technology Committee Charter:** Harry Hunt presented a charter for approval with the amendment to add “go in peace” to the mission statement. M/C

## 9. Health Advisory Team report

There was no meeting of the Health Advisory Team

## 10. Unfinished Business

- a. Proposed changes to FLC Constitution
  - i. C4.05.01 add: “go in peace to” M/S/C
  - ii. C10.02 add: “upon the written request of at least 15% of voting members” instead of “at least 100 voting members”. M/S/C
  - iii. C11.01 add and amend: “at its January meeting. The Treasurer may be elected from the council or the membership at large.” M/S/C
  - iv. C11.03 add: “except for the Treasurer”. M/S/C
  - v. C13.09.01D.10 add: “with significant input from the senior pastor. In addition, the committee will monitor, on a monthly basis, receipts and expenses of the parish.” M/S/C
  - vi. Approve all other changes as submitted. M/S/C
- b. Strategic Planning Update
  - i. Jeff Olson has agreed to be our consultant. We have some names from various committees and the membership at large.
  - ii. The sub-committee will discuss compensation with Jeff Olson.
- c. Safety and Security
  - i. Michelle Doose informed us that the St. Peter Police Dept. will not be able to provide safety and security training. Pastor Chris has contacted the Nicollet County Sheriff’s Dept. to determine if they could do the training at our church. He is waiting to hear back.
- d. Nursery
  - i. The Lifelong Learning Committee will oversee the Nursery. Additional plans will have to wait until Calleigh Carlson, Director of Youth and Family Ministry begins her work schedule in September.

## 11. New Business

- a. Request from Ecumen to rent the basement space
  - i. John Sylvester asked if having Ecumen rent space will change our insurance liability? Harry Hunt will follow up with Ken Westphal on this question.
  - ii. Council also needs to know if Ecumen will pay for all supplies they need to make the basement usable.
  - iii. Motion to approve Ecumen’s request pending negotiations with the Building & Grounds Committee and acceptance by the Executive Committee. S/C

b. Request from Dana Melius and Trish Hiscock-Austin

- i. Guest Trish Hiscock Austin discussed the nonprofit “New Foundations” request to rent office space at FLC. New Foundations and the program Trish runs called “Grass & Roots Outdoors” works with community organizations who serve mainly pre-k through 8th grade children. The goal of the program is to help kids care for the earth and each other.
- ii. They would need office space for 2 people and would have office hours that follow FLC office hours. They have not identified a room that would work but it would probably be one of the Sunday school classrooms. They would need WIFI access and they would provide their own furniture. They would like to initially have a quarterly lease with the option for it to be more long term.
- iii. Motion to refer to the Building & Grounds Committee. S/C

12. Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Next Church Council meeting will be held on September 20, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Devotions for September: Randy Stuckey