

**First Lutheran Church  
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes  
July 21, 2020 6:00 p.m. via Zoom**

“Renewed by Christ in Word, water, bread and wine, we serve our community and the world”

**Members Present:** Gordon Long, Intern Miranda, Bill Kautt, Pastor Gwen Hermanson, Harry Hunt, Cindy Nadeau, Ken Westphal, Michelle Doose, Garrett Paul, Mary Spear, Carolyn Trnka, Heidi Christenson, Shanon Nowell, John Sylvester, Reyenne Pettis

**Members Absent:** Mary Thompson

**1. Call to Order:** Bill Kautt at 6:02 p.m.

**2. Devotions:** Pastor Gwen

**3. Approval of the Agenda:** M/S/C

**4. Approval of Minutes:** M/S/C

**5. Pastor’s Report:**

- A. E-newsletter has 126 subscribers. Sending out newsletters to those who request it. Updated directory will be live soon. Summer newsletter just went out.
- B. On-line worship continues. Probably on-line or on TV throughout the year.
- C. Small groups are starting gradually.
- D. Committees should start meeting now. Meet through Zoom or in person with distancing and masks.
- E. Intern Miranda’s last Sunday is on August 9. Intern committee is planning farewell.
- F. Craig is getting up to speed - working both in the office and at home.
- G. Dave and Emily are asking about possible changes in their jobs due to budget.
- H. Current staffing model is not sufficient. No core purpose to unify the congregation. Large debt limits our ministry.

**6. President’s Report:**

- A. Response from Trinity. They are interested in discussing ways to collaborate. Three pastors will get together first.
- B. Discussion with Pastor Cook and Anne Bjorkland. Reconciliation is well into process. They will next talk to Pastor, Intern and staff members. Staff members have responded to that positively. Goal is to have a meeting with the council in August to discuss the report. Questions for council to discuss at meeting. It is recommended that we have a special meeting in August when the report is ready.

**7. Treasurer’s Report:**

- A. Pledges: \$290,000 in pledges were made. 183,000 has come in, 100,000 more is projected. At this point, 180,000 has been spent- 360,000 this year. That will be a shortage. Budget is 450,000- will we spend it? Think about and realize three gifts we

have received this year will probably not happen going forward- annual Christmas gift, PPP loan and COVID gift.

## **8. Informational Reports**

- A. Health Advisory Team- Dr. Keith Stelter: Five member team has met 4 times. Stages for planning an outdoor worship because of surge of COVID cases in Minnesota. Studying what the risks are and doing what is safest for our members. We have done well with online services. What would be the gain versus risk in gathering in person?  
Possible outdoor service in August. Goal to meet in person sometime in Sept.
- B. Reconciliation Restart- See President's report
- C. Intern Miranda's departure- August 9, last Sunday. August 10, she will have a farewell with the Internship Committee, please send in cards, thank you videos, gift donations!
- D. Insurance Update: Update at next meeting.

## **9. Unfinished Business:**

- A. Benevolence Funds-local community designation: Recommendation to divide \$2,000 between 2 local organizations. Each council member will get 2 votes. M/S/C  
Council voted to support Saint Peter Free Clinic and Partners for Affordable Housing
- B. Near- Term Staffing Needs- Job description for temporary position focuses primarily on education. Qualifications are general enough to attract a variety of applicants. The posting is taken from the job description. Application deadline is August 21.  
Approval of added position of Temporary Ministry Associate- Moved and carried  
Approval of job posting and description- Moved and carried  
Interview team will consist of Staff Support Committee, LifeLong Learning rep, Pastor Gwen, Council reps- Heidi Christenson and Michelle Doose. M/S/C

## **10. New Business:**

- A. Organ Repair- Worship and Arts Committee is moving forward on applying for grants. Possibilities are Schmidt Foundation and Mankato Foundation. They may also do some fundraising. The process can be done in phases. Hoping to begin in early 2021 with the first \$5,000 phase. Hoping to get support from the council to begin process. M/S/C
- B. Reopening the Church Building to Outside Use: Several groups have asked to use our building. Recommendation from the Health Advisory Committee is to keep the church building closed.

## **11. Committee Reports:**

- A. Building and Grounds- Removing items from the courtyard slowly with volunteers.
- B. Cemetery- Not met. For August- looking at some policy items: Delete number of terms, may want to raise price of lots to align with others.
- C. Finance- Expenses running ahead of cost.
- D. Funds Management- Formally meeting on Aug 4 to look at investments. Have regained a bit, but not where we were at beginning of the year.

- E. Social Justice- Four members ready to meet, four others have been contacted. Names will be given to the council to approve.
- F. Stewardship- Discussing fall campaign, appearances by members to appear in online worship videos.
- G. Worship and Arts: See organ discussion. Remember Women in Ministry Festival- Aug 9

**12. Good of the Order**

- A. Good question, observation, or comment
- B. Devotions for August- Mary Spear

**13. Lord's Prayer**

**15. Adjourn- 8:12 pm**

Our next meeting is scheduled for Aug 18, 2020