

**First Lutheran Church
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2020 6:30 p.m. via Zoom**

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

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

1. Call to Order: Bill Kautt at 6:43 p.m.

2. Devotions: Shanon Nowell

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

4. Approval of Minutes: Motion to strike 2B from the minutes S/C. Approval of minutes as revised. M/S/C

5. Pastor’s Report:

- A. Pulpit supply needs to be lined up in advance so Emily has time to put together the video by Sunday.
- B. Communion needs to be done by an ordained person.
- C. Fall newsletter went out on September 15.
- D. Calleigh is on board now. Received tour and resources. She will be at confirmation on Sept. 16 and will start teaching the following week. Nancy Thorkelson and Jessica Staddick will teach 9th grade until interim pastor is in place.
- E. No Sunday School until at least the first of the year, perhaps a Christmas program.
- F. Nominating committee needs to get going now.
- G. Hope for council to continue to engage in difficult conversations moving forward.

6. President’s Report:

- A. Council retreat is Sunday, September 27th with Pastor Cook. Tentative time is 1-4.
- B. Thank you letter from synod for monthly contribution to benevolence.
- C. Ninth grade guides will teach confirmation with support from Steve Kidder and Bob Stenson.
- D. Two potential candidates for interim position. Small group to interview candidates.
- E. Stewardship program is in progress. Bill will be giving one of the stewardship talks.

7. Treasurer’s Report:

- A. 172,000 in checking. Debt down to 1,318,000 We are doing ok now because of special gifts, loan. If we didn’t have these gifts, weekly pledges would not support our ministry.

8. Informational Reports

- A. Health Advisory Team: Needs to stay connected with leadership. Bill will contact Stelters to see if a rep can attend.
- B. Budget: Motion- Whereas the First Lutheran Church Council has accepted the voluntary resignation of Pastor Gwen Hermanson effective September 22, 2020; and Whereas Pastor Gwen Hermanson had previously been authorized by the Council to have certain banking privileges and responsibilities at First National Bank Minnesota and Pioneer Bank; Therefore be it Resolved that all such banking rights and privileges of First Lutheran Church end at First National Bank Minnesota and Pioneer Bank as of September 22, 2020. S/C
- C. Farewell: Drive by farewell for Pastor Gwen on Sunday, Sept. 20 from 1- 2:30. Packaged bags of Welcome Waffles will be handed out. Pictures of Pastor Gwen's ministry at First will be displayed. Pastor Gwen will also be at coffee hour. Cards, checks are welcome. They can be sent directly to church.

9. New Business:

- A. Constitution Changes:
 - 1. Finance Committee- Motion: Be it Resolved that the First Lutheran Church Constitution be amended to state that the "congregation will be asked to approve the annual operating budget at its January meeting" S/C
 - 2. Motion to ask that Council recommend the FLC Congregation approve changing the wording of FLC Constitution p.17, ch.13, C 13.06 to remove term limits for Cemetery Committee membership. S/C
 - 3. Staff Support- Motion to support proposed constitutional changes to be brought to the congregational meeting in December. New language added to committee responsibilities includes: reviewing and recommending changes to employee handbook, addressing staff concerns and complaints, and making hiring and compensation recommendations. S/C
- B. New Youth Council Member: A letter was received from a current youth with a desire to be on council. Bill submits name of Raina Roehmildt to serve as youth council member. M/S/C
- C. Interim Pastor: Two individuals were suggested by synod. Bill contacted both and both are interested. Pastor Cook recommends a sub committee of council or a smaller group interview candidates and make recommendation to the council for approval. Motion to appoint an ad hoc subcommittee of up to 5 people to do interviewing of interim candidates and recommend to council. M/S/C
Further motion to move that the president of the council be given authority to appoint members to this committee. S/C
- D. Building and Grounds Purchases:
 - 1. Striper for the parking lot. Machine can be reused. \$795.00+ paint. Quote from Neilson was 3,200 for striping. M/S/C
 - 2. Electrostatic mister - handheld disinfecter for larger areas. \$ 720.00, unknown cost

for fill. Not approved for purchase.

- E. Other: Request from neighborhood group that wants to use the church parking lot for a "Night to Unite" celebration understanding that the building will not be available. Motion to approve this request pending assurance of insurance coverage of group and mandatory wearing of masks. M/S/C

10. Committee Reports:

- A. Cemetery- Jim Stenson and Tom Thorkelson will co-manage the cemetery. Jim will handle the sale and marking of grave sites. Tom will manage the care of the grounds as well as providing backup in Jim's absence.
- B. Finance- Members have paid ahead. Revenues are ahead by 64,000. Most committees have not spent their budgets.
- C. Social Justice- Providing meals for health care workers at Free Clinic. Drive for goods For Partners for Affordable Housing.
- D. Stewardship: Stewardship videos each week during Sunday service. One to two letters, one containing pledge card.
- E. Worship and Arts: Got Schmidt Foundation grant application sent off. \$12,500 for first Phase of organ repair. Money is available. Council needs to approve each phase. Piano soundboard will be taken care of this fall, \$11-12,000.

13. Good of the Order

- A. Good question, observation, or comment
- B. Devotions for October- John

14. Lord's Prayer

15. Adjourn- 9:24 pm

Our next meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2020