

ST LUCAS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - AUGUST

8/24/2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Simons, Debbie Ball, Don Lang, Kathy Herron, Jack Laudenslager, Joy Dressel, Justin Wenk, Gregg Heutel, Marty Schmidt, Carol Stelmach, Marsha Fey, Ken Hamilton

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dave Johnston, Juanita Wagner

STAFF PRESENT: Rev Vicki Hampton, Rev. Carole Barner

The August 2021 Council meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Council President, Paul Simons.

OPENING PRAYER – Jack Laudenslager led us with an opening prayer.

CONSENT AGENDA – Paul said that there were 7 items in the Consent Agenda and asked if anyone wanted anything pulled out for discussion. Marty had a question about Membership and Evangelism but doesn't want it taken out. Marty made motion to accept the Consent Agenda and Carol seconded. Acceptance of the Consent Agenda passed.

- Council Minutes – July 27, 2021
- Cemetery Board Minutes – June, 2021
- Cemetery Board Minutes – July, 2021
- General Endowment Fund Minutes – April, 2021
- Membership & Evangelism Minutes – August, 2021
- Finance Committee – August, 2021
- Buildings & Grounds Committee – July, 2021

Marty had a question about the Membership & Evangelism minutes. Near the end of the minutes there was a memo mentioned from Juanita Wagner. Marty asked if there was any follow-up done regarding the bullet point: "We have a number of church members whose children are LGBTQ and these children do not feel welcome in our church." Since Juanita, who is the liaison for Membership & Evangelism, was not at the meeting, he asked Kathy to respond. She said that the best response would be for our church to become ONA. Kathy explained that when a person searches for a church on the UCC website, there are two questions asked on each church's listing. One is "Open and Affirming." If "Y" is printed, LGBTQ persons know that they are welcome. Marty asked if LGBTQ members have been made to feel unwelcome. Kathy said that their parents have mentioned that their children do not feel welcome. Vicki said we need to make those people feel welcome. Justin said we should talk about this in November. We keep kicking the can down the road on this but we never bring it up for a vote. Vicki feels there is some educational work to be done before we ever vote on ONA. After discussion, Vicki said we should have Barb Biedenstein come to the September Council meeting and inform us concerning the ONA process. Paul will contact Barb about attending our September meeting.

STAFF REPORTS – Pastor Vicki – Pastor Vicki gave the following list of things she has done this month:

- Seth and I continue to plan special worship services and looking at Advent/Christmas. Thanksgiving Eve?
- Megan is working on an app for the directory and working with Andrew to bring him up to speed.
- Michele is back to doing the children's message at 9:00 and I've begun doing one at 10:30. Moving indoors has not resulted in families coming back.

- Amy has six confirmands signed up - two of whom were unexpected.
- Debbie continues to hold down the fort with Megan.
- It is becoming more imperative than ever to figure out who we have left. Question: how do we do that other than giving records? Would it be an issue to get a printout of who has given without amounts? Don said there is a significant portion of people who give \$0 to \$10 a year. They might be left out. Pastor Carole said getting a correct membership count can be a touchy thing and we should deal with this with extreme care. Should other groups help make phone calls instead of all M&E?
- Budget planning and meetings regarding our bookkeeping service.
- Pastoral calls were beginning to work, but the hospitals and living facilities have reinstituted most of the COVID restrictions. Thanks to Jackie Zeiting for her perseverance.
- Working through the key issue with B&G took a lot of time this month with multiple meetings and conversations.
- Getting our arms around contacting people through Membership and Evangelism.
- Only had one funeral - Ken Witbrodt. Also had twins, Emma and Kate Jetensky's baptism. Wedding meetings and planning for Jeff Wagener and Julie Murphy over Labor Day (off site at Eden Seminary). New member Ron Hrin joined last weekend.
- Trying to plan something for a fall get together - Celebration Sunday/Rally Day/ whatever we end up calling it.
- Youth mission retreat which was a lot of fun.
- Amy and Lynn had 6 youth at a Rock and Bowl and are planning pottery painting and demolition ball. Confirmation starts the Wednesday after Labor Day.

OLD BUSINESS

- June Schmitt Property – Paul said we have a closing date next Tuesday. The title company for the purchaser wants a formal certificate that shows the resolutions that were adopted by the Council previously. One is to authorize the sale and one is to authorize Paul Simons and Debbie Ball to sign on behalf of St. Lucas.

RESOLVED, that the property known as 9831 Las Vegas, St. Louis MO 63126 in the County of St. Louis, State of Missouri, being purchased/sold pursuant to the terms and conditions contained of a certain Sale Contract, signed and accepted by said company.

*RESOLVED further, that **Paul Simons**, President, and **Deborah Ball**, Secretary, of said Church are hereby authorized and given all necessary powers by the above to execute all necessary and required documents on behalf of the church to complete the Sale Contract of the above mentioned property.*

Paul made the following motion and Joy seconded:

Council accept these resolutions for the closing sale of the June Schmitt property.

There was no discussion. Motion approved.

- Lombard Mennonite Peace Center – Paul contacted the center about leadership training. All current training sessions are done by Zoom. There are three different leadership sessions. The one day Zoom meetings go from about 8:30 am to 4:30 pm and they are \$99 to \$109 a person. If you send 4 or more people, you get a \$15 per person discount. Three of the classes offered are: Leadership And Anxiety In The Church; Healthy Congregations; and Conflict Transformation Skills For Churches. Some are during the week and some are on Saturdays. Paul feels that if we do all three, the pastors and staff should attend these as well. The question was asked that after lay people attend these sessions, then what happens? Paul said you could use the skills learned to address the congregation. Vicki said it would be great if people get a little of this training which is similar to what is covered in Interim Training for pastors. Paul will send us the brochures on the workshops. Joy, Marty, Carol, Marsha and Kathy are interested in attending. Vicki would take the cost of her attendance out of her budget.

Ken made the following motion and Carol seconded:

The cost of these sessions for staff and ministers are paid for by the church.

Motion approved.

- Key Access to Building – Ken told us that the five new keys are made. Vicki has them and will distribute them. One spare will be locked up and the following staff will receive a key: Charlie, Amy, Kelly (preschool), and Debbie Heagle. Vicki has them sign a release when they get a key.
- Stewardship Committee Formation – Paul said that Don Sabbert and Katy Forrand are willing to be on this committee. Julie Murphy is considering it.
- Council/Committee Vacancies – Paul gave us a list of names that have been submitted to him. Paul will contact Jeff Wagener to see if he is willing to join Council. Joy said he is willing to be on the Governance Committee too. Nominating Committee, Personnel Committee and Kitchen Committee possible names also were sent to Council by Paul. Paul asked if any Council members had other names to submit. Justin asked if there is any desire to start a search committee yet? He said that the process takes at least two years to find a pastor. Vicki said she feels that the time table for starting a search is around Christmas of next year. She will be sending out a letter next month outlining a timeline for our next minister search but will present it to Council in September first. She still feels there is a lot of work to be done at St. Lucas. Discussion followed about moving forward or not moving forward on forming a search committee. Council will discuss this further after Vicki presents her timeline next month.
- Other Old Business – Paul said we need some Council people to fill up offering processing slots. He asked if Jack can Jack monitor the sign up going forward? Discussion followed about Council members doing all of the offering collection and locking it up. Security in having two people was mentioned and most felt this was still a necessary procedure.

Don made the following motion and Marty seconded:

Once a month, Megan will send out the Sign Up Genius by email to Council members requesting members to sign up for offering.

Motion approved.

Don asked members that if they still do not have a key to the safe/drawer, please call the office and get a key.

NEW BUSINESS

- Athletic Field Coordinator – Paul got an email from Keith Wendel who has been coordinating the athletic fields for several years. Keith would like to pass along the job to someone else so we now need someone new to take care of the fields. Paul said this job used to be under the Board of Christian Education, which we no longer have. Discussion followed regarding whether the Building and Grounds Committee should take this over? Debbie asked if we can we get a job description from Keith as to what this job entails? Paul will ask him.
- Annual Meeting Date – Paul said that the Annual Meeting is normally held on the second Sunday in November.

Jack made the following motion and Don seconded:

Set the date for the Annual Meeting for November 14.

Motion approved.

- Building Access Update – In July Megan sent an email to Vicki and Paul in which she identified that people come in at various times of the day for meetings without scheduling these meetings with the office. Vicki said we need to put something out about scheduling meetings with the office. She said that she is working to change the codes on the main door so each committee has their own code. Megan will send this change out in the email blast.

- Community Meal Proposal – There has been a request for approval to do a drive by community meal during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. The Community Meal Committee asked the Virus Committee if this would be okay. Marty said he has no concerns with their plan.

Jack made the following motion and Joy seconded:

Approve the request made by the Community Meal Committee to hold drive by meals during the holidays.

Motion approved.

- Review of Ministry – Paul said that the pastors' call agreement calls for a Review of Ministry to help them going forward. This is a communications process to see how Ministers and lay people interact. Paul showed us a power point presentation that Lauren Hoggatt made before she left the Personnel Committee. The timeline would be for the Executive Committee and the Ministers to meet in January to set goals for the coming year and then meet again in February and July for review. Council would then go over all of this in August. Vicki said that each minister has areas of strength and that you wouldn't expect your pastor to excel in all 8 of the marks. Maybe it should say areas of improvement instead of weaknesses but overall she felt that it is a good evaluation tool. Vicki suggested that maybe we should work on the wording in a smaller group instead of the whole council. Paul said that maybe the Executive Committee should meet to discuss this process first. Don said that it should be a simpler process. Paul will coordinate a meeting with Pastor Vicki and Carole and the Executive Committee to develop a review process.
- Other Business – Vicki said that Debbie Heagle came up with ideas on the mailbox problem. She has found a \$160 outside lockable mailbox that can hold small packages too. The box has a locking mechanism that would keep people from being able to open it. It has to be affixed to a outside wall. Gregg said we should check with the Building and Grounds Committee first to avoid conflict.

Carol made the following motion and Kathy seconded:

Move forward with this mailbox after first presenting this to the Building and Grounds Committee for approval.

Motion approved.

Marsha said she is still talking about a fall event with Vicki in October.

ADJOURNMENT WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER – Marty made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Don seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m. with Pastor Vicki leading us out with the Lord's Prayer.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- September 28 – 6:00 – Council Meeting

*Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Ball
St. Lucas Council Secretary*