

COUNCIL CONVERSATION - Sunday, July 30, 2023 - 10:45 am - 11:30 am - Room 19

1 pastor, 7 council members, 13 member visitors, and 2 online member visitors, for a total of 23 participants.

*Note - a conversation regarding the cemetery was underway when I walked in

- Joan Dalgaard advised she's been attempting to communicate with the Cemetery Board about the upkeep and maintenance of the trees. President Marty Schmidt advised, "duly noted".
- Adam Rustige advised he'd be willing to volunteer to help with opening and closing the building on Sundays if it will help defray custodial costs. Marty advised his prior comment about the expense and ease of the tasks involved was inaccurate. Therefore, the new cleaning crew hired for the church will take care of Sundays at an annual expense of \$4,200. (12 months/\$350 each.)
- Bill Biedenstein asked if Pastor Carole will stay in the Sexton's house after her October 15th departure. Paul Simons and Pastor Vicki both answered yes. Her call agreement with St. Lucas UCC was not tied to her rental agreement with St. Lucas UCC. They are separate agreements. Plus she has been a good tenant with regular, on-time rental payments.
- Bill also shared his concern for the maintenance and upkeep of the Parsonage and the Sexton home. i.e. how do we track potential repairs so we can be prepared?
 - Donovan Larson replied short of keeping excessive funds in the Building and Grounds budget to pay for unexpected costs (not reasonable), the Facilities Ministry does its best to stay on top of repairs as needed. Yet, an expected list of anticipated expenses *is* reasonable and should be reported frequently to the congregation.
- Marty reported Katy Forand submitted a check for \$1,000 which is the result of the new program of Concession Sales to the sports teams using our fields. This allowed Marty the opportunity to advise the group St. Lucas UCC is NOT selling off any of the ball fields despite the rumor that has recently surfaced. The response to the concession sales has been very positive. It allows St. Lucas UCC to show itself in a personal light to the community who use those fields.
- A Task Force is currently working to determine the best future use of those fields whether that be to invest in a higher form of maintenance that will allow future income to surpass current income results (Lindbergh would like to get more time on our fields). Or could it be used for a Senior's complex as discussed during Rev. Campbell's tenure? Or should we investigate an extension for the Preschool since their classrooms are continually filled months in advance of each session? These are all ideas that have been discussed by the Council this year.
 - The bottom line about St. Lucas UCC is that we are "Asset-rich and Cash-poor".
- From online, Kim Witbrodt asked if the St. Lucas UCC fields are covered from liability/lawsuits. The answer is each contract for the sports teams has a liability release that is signed each season. However, if someone wants to sue St. Lucas UCC a release will not prevent that. What we can prevent is negligence on the church's part regarding maintenance and upkeep.
- Plans are in place to have the Music Department covered for August and September in Seth's absence. Linda Radick will supply piano accompaniment for both months. The choir will be singing in August and September -earlier than usual- with the help of Pastor Carole until Seth's replacement can be identified.
- When Pastor Carole submitted her resignation, Marty and the two pastors met to discuss all the tasks our pastors perform which could easily be performed by lay people. There are many services this congregation expects our ministers to perform that other congregations have their church members complete. This discussion has resulted in a plan that will ensure the Saturday service will continue once we are down to one minister. We want to guarantee full transparency for any future candidate the Search Committee eventually calls to St. Lucas UCC.

- Marty intends to have these Council Conversations every three to four weeks from now until the annual meeting in November to enable the congregation to have a full understanding of church operations and budgetary processes. He is hopeful that some of those will be held in the evening for anyone who may have a schedule conflict.
- In addition, Kim Witbrodt advised she appreciates the dialogue she hears on Tuesday mornings during the Zoom call Coffee Hour.
 - In addition, members are welcome to observe monthly Council meetings via Zoom or in person to hear about what is happening at St. Lucas UCC.
 - If someone wants to verbally address the Council, they need to request this via the Council email, well in advance of any Council meeting. That email is: **council@stlucasucc.org**

Without any further questions from the visitors, The Lord's Prayer was said to close this session.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Smith

Recording Secretary | St. Lucas UCC Church Council