

**ST. LUCAS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 27, 2019**

Attendees: Randy Jurgensen, Donovan Larson, Carol Stelmach, Cynthia Rosfeld, Don Lang, Bill Lowry, Russ Cottle, Gregg Heutel, Jill Meyer, Debbie Ball, Dave Johnston, Barb Beck.

Absent: Mike Bohn, Bill Linnenbringer, and Mary Morgan.

Pastors: Rev Wayne Hoffman, Rev. Kelly Archer.

Guests: Shirley Simmons, Sue Simmons, Barb O'Brian, Linda Simons, Paul Simons, Pat Stephens, Steve Kienzler, Linda Hartman, Jan Johnston, Donna Alexander, Bob Beck, Ken Hamilton, Barb Smith, Marty Schmidt, Paul Litzsinger, Adam Rustige, Bill Brinkhorst, Joy Dressel, Dan Herron, Kathy Herron.

The meeting was opened by Randy. Our guests were welcomed and informed of the normal protocol to be followed.

Pastor Wayne shared the Prayer of St. Francis with us as our opening prayer.

Consent Agenda: Don made a motion that the minutes be accepted as written. Russ seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Dave suggested that the rest of the Consent Agenda items be accepted as presented. There were no dissenting opinions expressed.

Member Time: Pat Stephens thanked the council for their work. She also shared her opinion that an Interim Pastor was very important for our congregation.

Steve Kienzler stated that he felt an Interim Pastor was very important. He also stated that he had no disagreement with making the 10% cuts asked for in the Mission outreach programs. He suggested that a 30% cut in covenanted ministries was too severe, but he could agree with a 10% cut.

Linda Hartman, spoke for Paul Litzsinger, regarding the need for an Interim Pastor.

Marty Schmidt spoke in favor of a trained UCC Interim pastor. He also spoke of the need to love one another and to speak and listen respectfully with each other. Adam Rustige asked if there is a plan for next steps after our congregants express

their opinions at the various congregational gatherings. He also stated that the Social Justice Committee is willing to work with an Interim Pastor to help in the healing process.

Clergy Report: Rev Wayne stated he had been listening and talking to folks. He has prepared and preached 2 sermons, and is working on a third sermon. He was asked to have an exit report when he leaves. He also said that he has enjoyed being a part of our church.

Rev Kelly reported on all her activities this past month. She shared her annotated time sheet. She stated that she has asked Amy Farfan to record the sermons on DVD for our members who are homebound. There are plans being made to launch Caring Ministries Small Groups this fall. These small groups will be organized around specific needs such as divorce, grief etc. Because she will be participating in confirmation instruction, she has put two programs on hold for now. Her full time call agreement has been finalized, and she became a member of St. Lucas this month.

Current Business: Randy made a motion that the TPC be empowered to find a supply or bridge interim to work with us from the time Eric leaves until an Intentional or designated Interim can be found. The Council will have the final vote on hiring this person or persons for this short term position. Dave seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Stewardship Report: Don Lang reported that 28 people had pledged over \$64,000 for the All Hands on Deck Campaign.

Governance Committee Report: Dave Johnston reported that the Committee has had one meeting, and they have been collecting background information. The members on the task force include Dave Johnston (chair), Miles Meyer, Bill Lowry, Jim Butler, Dan Coughlin, Steve Sobo, and Joy Dressel. The group is looking for one more woman, and has several people under consideration.

Nominating Committee Report: Russ Cottle reported that we have a list of about 18 people that have been suggested for various positions. He is trying to determine how many new members are needed on Church Council, Cemetery Board, Preschool Board, Lay Delegates, Perpetual Endowment and Trust. The Nominating Committee is composed of Russ Cottle, Cynthia Rosfeld, Gregg Heutel, Barb Beck, Debbie Ball, and Jill Meyer.

Action Item: Don Lang made a motion to approve funding the Local Mission Fund on Communion Sundays through a Good will offering plate placed in the back of the sanctuary until the fund reaches \$1600. Carol seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business: Eric's last day of work will be September 30. If we can locate a bridge or supply pastor before that date, we will look at an earlier release date if he wishes.

Randy made a motion that we rent the Sexton House to Kelly at the rent rate of the current tenants for one year. Dave seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Don Lang reviewed the latest rendition of the 2020 budget. He also gave a time line of September 17 where all budgets need to be submitted. The final meeting on the budget will be on September 24. The Council voted to decrease the budgeted 2020 contribution to "Our Church's Wider Mission" (OCWM) by 10% from \$30,000 in 2019 to \$27,000 in 2020. \$27,000 will be given to the MO. Mid-South Conference of which 10% or \$2700 is forwarded to UCC National to fund the National UCC activities.) The Council also voted to accept the budget as presented.

Randy made a motion that we resume a search for an Intentional or Designated Interim Pastor immediately. The members of the search committee are Paul Simons, James Butler, Barb Beck, Joy Dressel, Joan Gildehaus. Dave seconded the motion. After a discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Randy asked each member to review the employee manual post that was sent out via email. It will be discussed at our next meeting.

Bill Lowry made a motion that council adopt a policy that congregants eligible to fill a Council vacancy be approved by a simple majority of the Council prior to being appointed by the Council President. The motion was seconded by Don. After a discussion it was approved unanimously.

Dave made a motion that the cap of 5 members on the Governance Committee be removed from the original motion. Randy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The ramp in the sanctuary is on hold, and we are currently only able to use one bell. Don suggested that he explore ways to fund these two projects, and will

report back to council.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm, and in St. Lucas tradition closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barb Beck