

ST. LUCAS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 24, 2020

MEMBERS present: Debbie Ball, Mike Bohn, Barb Coughlin, Joy Dressel, Ken Hamilton, Dave Johnston, Randy Jurgensen, Don, Lang, Al Lichtenstein, Skip Salomon, Joanne Scheidt, Carol Stelmach, and Justin Wenk.

Absent: Gregg Heutel

PASTORS Present: Rev. Bill Smutz and Rev. Kelly Archer

GUESTS: There were no guests. The meeting was held electronically via Zoom due to the Coronavirus situation.

The meeting was opened at 6:00 PM with a prayer by Rev. Smutz.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Building and Grounds: **See Attached.**

Preschool: **See Attached.**

Ken made a **motion** to *approve the consent agenda*. Carol seconded it. The consent agenda was approved.

CLERGY REPORT: Rev. Smutz had praise for the cooperative effort that was put forth by various Council members to bring the first part of the Annual Meeting to fruition Sunday morning in the parking lot. Advent worship services are being recorded. Annual reviews for the staff are in progress.

Rev. Archer also extended kudos on Sunday's drive-in meeting. She has taken some vacation time recently in order to move from one home to another and to prepare for her upcoming wedding. Six of the seven Confirmation students are currently quarantined. The Thursday Bible study class is resuming this week.

OLD BUSINESS:

October Council Meeting Minutes: Carol made a **motion** to *approve the October minutes*. Debbie seconded. Minutes were approved.

REPORTS:

Report of Covid-19 Task Team- Bill/Dave: The task force cancelled yesterday's meeting in order to use that time for a practice run of Part 2 of the Annual Meeting which will be held by Zoom next Monday at 7 PM.

Finance Committee Report- Al reported the following for Gregg:

Gregg had offered a Zoom meeting on the proposed budget that was open to any interested congregation members last Thursday. The biggest concern that members in attendance seemed to have was the 10% cut in the benevolence budget.

An account for Venmo, a money app, is being set up for St. Lucas to provide an additional avenue for people to give offering money to the church.

There is still a lag on our financial reporting, but giving statements will be sent to members at the end of November.

Something to work out yet is whether Building and Grounds will be presenting their wish list and requesting funds at the Annual Meeting.

Council discussed how money for repair and replacement of appliances at the rental properties is handled and some different options for how it could be handled.

Cool Safe & Dry - Don: Tribute Garden funds have been moved to help fund the project. The fourth phase project, the social hall ceiling and floor, is now fully funded.

Annual Meeting task forces (Congregational Meeting, Constitution and Bylaws, and Nominating) – Joy/Dave: There has been a lot of good cooperation within the task forces to creatively figure out how to go forward with the meeting using technology. 232 people have registered for the meeting.

KGCS task force - Dave: No failures to follow the guidelines were found. The task force is going to update the policy in the new year.

Engaging with young adults : Justin reported on some of what he has heard in his interviews with young adults. The top theme is that they are struggling to connect with the church. The remote, virtual connection isn't working for them and they are wondering where they fit in. The in-person, in-car, trunk-or-treat was appreciated. The Council discussed. Justin is willing to talk with more young adults. Provide him with a name and contact information.

New Business:

Sunday's constitution and bylaws modifications made it legal for the Council to make decisions in Zoom meetings. In order to make our *past* non-face-to-face decisions legal in the eyes of Roberts Rules of Order, Don made a **motion** to "*ratify*" the decisions the council approved since our last face-to-face meeting 25 August 2020 thru 22 November 2020. Skip seconded. The motion passed. At our August 25 meeting, we ratified decisions that had previously been made. Thanks go to Paul Simons for his work with the changes.

OPEN FORUM:

Don asked whether we will collect "Epiphany boxes" of non-perishable food this year for distribution to the hungry. We will. Don will obtain the empty boxes.

Mike asked about the status of the audit and the ramp. Debbie Heagle was a key player in providing information for the audit. Due to her time away for her injury, the audit is still progressing, but will not be complete by the time of the Annual Meeting. Construction of the ramp has hit a roadblock and needs more discussion.

Carol made a **motion** for *the next meeting to be held on the third Tuesday, December 15, instead of on the fourth Tuesday*. Randy seconded. The motion passed.

The pastors were asked to depart the meeting.

Personnel matter: Rev. Smutz' contract requires that the congregation vote to extend his contract in 6-month increments after the first year. Ken made a **motion** *that the Council recommend to the congregation that they vote to approve the 6-month extension which will extend his contract through July 31, 2021*. Randy seconded. The motion was approved.

ADJOURNMENT: Randy made a **motion** *to adjourn*. Carol seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by Joy Dressel