

ST LUCAS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - SEPTEMBER

10/26/2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Simons, Debbie Ball, Ken Hamilton, Joy Dressel, Jack Laudenslager, Juanita Wagner, Don Lang, Jeff Wagener, Marty Schmidt, Kathy Herron, Justin Wenk, Gregg Heutel,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dave Johnston, Carol Stelmach, Marsha Fey

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Vicki Hampton and Rev. Carole Barner

The October 2021 Council meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Council President, Paul Simons.

OPENING PRAYER – Ken Hamilton 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. Ken had a comment about the General Endowment Fund minutes and their formula of the ratio of stocks and bonds. Paul said the Endowment Fund Committee made this decision with the advice of their investment associates. Joy noticed a spelling correction on the Building & Grounds report regarding June Schmitt's name. Jack said on the Council minutes he said the month of June twice for the month to change over to a business administrator. It should have been July. Kathy asked a comment about the Cemetery Board minutes. Why is the money report from the Cemetery Board so vague? No figures were given. Paul said the Cemetery Board will make a presentation at the annual meeting and she can ask that question. Marty made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and Jack seconded. Acceptance of the Consent Agenda passed.

- Council Minutes – September 28, 2021
- Council Minutes – October 23, 2021
- General Endowment Fund Minutes – July, 2021
- Finance Committee Minutes – October, 2021
- Cemetery Board Minutes – September, 2021
- Preschool Board Minutes – September, 2021
- Building and Grounds Minutes – September, 2021

STAFF REPORTS –

Pastor Vicki – Pastor Vicki submitted the following list of her activities for October:

- Seth will be on vacation the week of November 8th. He has arranged for the Radick's to substitute on Saturday/Sunday.
- Seth and I have been working on providing some different music for worship.
- Debbie continues to coordinate the cemetery and the payments for work done on the physical plant in addition to her other responsibilities.
- Megan has been working on the Facebook issue - we will most likely end up with another Facebook page as FB admin is unresponsive. As activities pick up, so does her work.
- Amy and Lynn are working on a mission trip with the Youth Group, parents and Rev. Barner.
- Michele continues to provide materials to youth as well as children's messages and assistance in planning activities.
- I got back from vacation on 10/5 - it was great!
- Working on the Christmas schedule.
- Working on the FB issue.

- Continuing the conversations related to interim work.
- Annual report
- Budget
- Pastoral care
- Following up with departing members.
- Reviewing endowment documents and current law regarding endowment

Pastor Barner – Pastor Carole gave the following list of things she has done in October:

- Pastoral care: Several home visits w/communion and prayers; Memorial Service for Alberta Lichte on October 15th; prep for Memorial service for Mike Sulwar (set for November 5th).
- Worship: Began 5 p.m. Saturday worship again on October 2nd, World Communion Weekend.
- Zoom meetings have included weekly Bible Study; occasional Tuesday morning coffee; staff meetings weekly.
- In person gatherings: Confirmation class weekly; High School Mission Trip planning; worship. Oktoberfest, October 9th – lots of energy, decorated pumpkins, magic, music, lively fellowship and outdoor worship.
- Interim Work: I continue to have conversations with members to learn more of the history of St. Lucas; several conversations with Joy regarding Heritage – primarily in terms of pastoral leadership through the years.
- Wider Church: Committee On Ministry Preparation co-chair: meeting October 14; MMS Finance and Administration meeting, Zoom. Discussion regarding contextual Education at Eden Seminary with Steve Lawler in pursuit of obtaining a Lilly Foundation grant for the seminary.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Athletic Field Coordinator** – Ken Hamilton talked to Wendy and Karl and they both said they have had no questions or comments on the use of the field. They are putting off finding a coordinator until next summer. Paul said Lindbergh wants to use the fields this fall so Keith Wendel is still working with them for now until we find a replacement.
- **Other Old Business** – Ken got an email from Karl about the flooring. Originally the cost was \$50,000 for the floor and ceiling, with \$18,000 still put aside for the ceiling. The ceiling project could be put off for a little bit but if we start volleyball again we might have to repair the ceiling sooner. There are some mold issues on the south side of the sanctuary roof that the roofers could fix while they are here working on the roof. Karl would like to allocate \$6,166 for this roofing issue. It's a reallocation of the money originally allocated to the social hall repair.

Ken made the following motion and Marty seconded:

Reallocate \$6,166 from social hall repair to roof renovation.

Motion carried.

Jack said that someone needs to call Karl to let him know tonight so he can tell the roofing people before they take the lift away. Paul said he will do this.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Memorial Committee Liaison** – Paul said that we don't currently have a liaison to the Memorial Committee. Would anyone like to be a liaison? Jack said he can do that.
- **Christmas Worship Service** – Vicki said that she sent out a worship service schedule. We're looking at Christmas Eve services at 6:00 for families and 9:00 for the candlelight service. There will be an advent theme of "Journey" that Michele is putting together. We'll also offer Christmas caroling in your car or around a firepit in the parking lot and a Blue Christmas quieter service. There will also be a family service at 10:30 the Sunday before Christmas. This service would be informal, not a pageant type.
- **Worship Service Assistance** – Paul said now that we have 3 worship services, it's becoming difficult to have people to help with sign in and ushering. Paul is asking for additional help for Saturday nights and Sunday mornings. Jeff asked if we have a sign up currently. Paul said it's usually Paul and Ken setting up tables and taking attendance. Joy asked if it had to be council people. The decision was made that if it's a Council

member's turn to do the offering, they should come early and help with the sign-in process. We currently have no Council member signed up for this Saturday night offering.

- **Nominating Committee Report** – Joy said that we don't have too many people who want to be on council, but we do have some. Jim Kaiser wants to be on Cemetery Board and Carl Heine will re-up for Cemetery Board. Cookie Tunze wants to resign from Cemetery Board. Sandy Harris has volunteered to finish her term but discussion followed regarding whether or not this is okay since her husband, Lanny Wingbermuehle is the chair of that board. Paul said we have an unwritten policy that we don't allow family members or spouses to be on the same board or committee. Discussion followed on this position and it was decided to not allow Sandy to be on Cemetery Board while her husband is also on that board because we would be setting a precedent for the future. Discussion also followed regarding whether or not we need six people on this board. Vicki said the constitution and By Laws calls for 6 members but we also call for a Christian Education Board which we don't currently have. Joy continued saying that the Perpetual Endowment nominee will be Bill Biedenstein. Paul Litzinger will serve a second term as lay delegate along with Marsha Armentrout. Council nominees will be Kathy Herron, Donovan Larson, Julie Burr, and Jenny Bell. Joy still needs one additional person and is hoping for someone to represent the younger parent group.

The following motion was made by Marty and seconded by Jeff:

Accept the slate of nominees as presented by the nominating committee.

Motion passed and slate is approved.

- **Transition Team** – Pastor Vicki said that the transition team is a group that represents the various constituencies at St. Lucas. It is a group that works with her and Carole that leads them through the transition towards forming a search committee. They have some reporting responsibilities, and these people will help facilitate meetings with Vicki and Carole. So far we have a few names to consider. This is a committee that the church council forms. Please send any suggestions to Paul and he'll forward those names to the ministers. Vicki would like representatives from Youth, Governance, Mission, etc. and she would like about seven people. This group could also participate in the Lombard Mennonite workshops.
- **Congregation Conversations** - Pastor Vicki said we need to get as many people as are willing to participate in conversations. She will lay out the ground rules at a church service and people who want to attend would be broken up into groups and go to tables in the social hall with questions relating to the interim time. Each table then selects a spokesperson to report back to the larger group. She would like to do this sooner than later, even with the Christmas season coming up. The group discussions would be open to all and held after the 10:30 service, and we will be providing sandwiches and chips. It was decided that the first one will be held on Sunday, December 5 and depending how it goes, there may be more meetings. Pastor Carole said we also need to talk covenant as ground rules and how we treat each other. Paul will meet with Pastor Vicki and Pastor Carole to start planning for this event.
- **Quilter Funds** – Council has had a request to reallocate the funds from the quilter group to a group that makes the freezer meals. There is currently \$4,048 in the quilter group account and this group has been disbanded and this group no longer meets and the members of the quilter group have left St. Lucas. This money could be available for the freezer meal group. Gregg asked if Paul is asking to move the entire balance. Paul said we will create a new fund for them.

The following motion was made by Gregg and seconded by Joy:

Reallocate the quilters fund of \$4,048 to the new freezer meals activity account.

The Motion passed.

- **Preschool Room Usage Report** – Joy said the preschool wants to use a different room for music. They are requesting room 18-20 or the rehearsal room in the undercroft because they need a larger space.

The following motion was made by Joy and seconded by Juanita:

Allow the preschool to use room 18-20 for music. Juanita seconded.

Motion passed.

Kathy had a question about whether or not we are still wiping down chairs after meetings. Should we ask the task force? Jack said the task force felt it is no longer needed. Building and Grounds will be notified that the preschool will be using rooms 18-20 for their music classes.

- **Other New Business** – Ken asked if Bible Study can be started again at Friendship Village. Vicki said she and Carole have had conversations about starting that back up again. Kathy suggested that we discuss at the November Council meeting how to recognize Debbie and Megan, as suggested by Carol Stelmach at a previous meeting. Gregg asked if there has been any thought or discussions regarding combining the two Sunday morning services if our attendance stays at around 35 people or so? He feels that more people in the sanctuary might be more inspiring, but acknowledged that if you combine services, some people will not be happy. Vicki said she would agree to combining services if we weren't still social distancing. We can keep it in the back of our minds as we go forward.

ADJOURNMENT WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER – Ken made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Kathy seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m. with Pastor Vicki leading us out with the Lord's Prayer.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- October 31 – 2:00-4:00 - Spooky Drive Through
- November 14 – 11:15 – Annual Meeting
- November 23 – 6:00 – Council Meeting

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