

ST LUCAS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – NOVEMBER

11/23/2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Simons, Joy Dressel, Marsha Fey, Ken Hamilton, Kathy Herron, Jack Laudenslager, Marty Schmidt, Carol Stelmach Jeff Wagener, Juanita Wagner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Debbie Ball, Gregg Heutel, Dave Johnston, Don Lang, Justin Wenk

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Dr. Carole Barner

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

OPENING PRAYER – Jeff Wagener led us with an opening prayer.

CONSENT AGENDA – Paul said that there were six items in the Consent Agenda and asked if anyone wanted anything pulled out for discussion. Seeing none, Paul asked for a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Jeff made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and Ken seconded. Acceptance of the Consent Agenda passed.

- Church Council Meeting Minutes – October 26, 2021
- Memorial Committee Minutes – November 9, 2021
- Membership and Evangelism Committee Meeting Minutes – October 5, 2021
- Membership and Evangelism Committee Meeting Minutes - November 2, 2021
- Finance Committee Minutes – November 16, 2021
- Preschool Board Meeting Minutes – October 12, 2021

BRIEF REPORT:

Paul said that Marty would be leaving the meeting early and asked to give a report from the Social Justice Committee. Marty said that the Social Justice committee met last night, and that he has been out of town, so it was an opportunity to catch up. For a few weeks, they have been in contact with the International Institute regarding sponsoring a refugee family who will be placed in St. Louis. This does not affect their budget in any way. This is a very cool thing, and there are many hoops that the volunteers go through. They will probably want to put something in the blast at some point in case there are members of the Congregation who may want to help with the situation. We do not know when this will happen. It could be tomorrow, six months from now or never.

STAFF REPORT: Pastor Carole's Report Sent to the Committee before the Meeting

- Pastoral care: Memorial Service for Mike Sulwar (set for November 5th) with luncheon following. Funeral for Edgar Lyston November 15 with burial at St. Lucas and luncheon following; funeral for Joanne Merkle with burial at St. Lucas November 17th with luncheon following. Phone calls; prayer messages.
- Worship: Saturday 5 p.m. services; Sunday 9 & 10:30 a.m. services. Communion November 7th; new member reception November 14th; baptism November 21st.
- Zoom meetings have included Tuesday morning coffee; staff meetings weekly; Finance Committee; Mission and Outreach Committee; Community Support Orientation for Afghan Immigration.
- In person gatherings: Confirmation class weekly; High School Mission Trip planning; worship; Membership and Evangelism plus New Member Informational Meeting.
- Personnel: Dennis will be off for vacation November 29-December 3, with no one available to cover his shift cleaning the preschool. To cover cleaning for the Pre School, contacted four companies. Cost likely to be \$150/day, for a total of \$750.
- Interim Work: Prep meeting with Paul and Vicki regarding the Congregational Conversation on December 5th after worship.
- Business: Annual meeting went quite smoothly. I am glad we included a covenant in the beginning of the meeting. I find it to be good at setting the stage and reminding us who we are and whose we are.

- Mission and Outreach: I was present for part of the Drive Through Thanksgiving Meal on November 21st.

- Support in Vicki's Absence: I recorded Wednesday Word videos in an effort to keep strengthening the ties by providing a brief mid-week devotional; the more reminders we can share of our connection and covenantal relationship, the better. Vicki hopes to do a couple of them toward the end of her time recuperating. This is to encourage all of us on this journey.

- Attended Zoom of "**Leadership and Anxiety in the Church: A Family Systems Perspective**" presented by Lombard Mennonite Peace Center on November 4th. I will attend "**Healthy Congregations**" on December 2nd via Zoom, also by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. The November 4th class was attended by five of us from St. Lucas, and we were put into our own small group during break out times. This was very helpful for us in reflecting on St. Lucas in light of the presentation.

- Wider Church: Committee On Ministry Preparation co-chair: hybrid meeting November 11. MMSC Annual Fall Meeting November 6th via Zoom.

From my perspective, St. Lucas feels healthier as we continue forward. Extended fellowship before and after worship is a very good sign of this.

In Christ, Pastor Carole

Additions to Carole's Written Report:

- Carole said that she is very excited about the group that met last night regarding supporting the refugees.
- She said that since we are heading into Advent, she will be asking congregants to come to the 9:00 and 10:30 services to be candle lighters, which includes a brief speaking part. Also, she will be asking people to be liturgists, to read the Scripture. She asked members of the committee to volunteer.
- Bel Cleaning is the company that will cover his shift for cleaning the preschool.
- Megan, Charlie and Michele are on vacation this week. Vicki is in good humor, doing well, and keeping in touch with her physician. She will be easing in to coming back to work on December 6th.
- Juanita asked about signing up for the next Lombard Mennonite Peace Center conference Healthy Congregations on December 2. Paul said that she would sign up directly to the Peace Center.
- Marty said that the Congregation meeting went very well, and he was surprised that there wasn't more discussion about Covid. The committee saw this as a sign of the congregation having trust in the Task Force.
- Carol asked that we notice the last line of her written report—that St Lucas feels healthier as we continue forward.

Members of the Council complimented Carole on the outstanding job she is doing.

OLD BUSINESS:

Transition Team

- Paul reported that Amy Bush is gathering a couple of suggestions for youth members.
- We are still looking for someone from Friendship Village.
- There is a need to have a balance of male and female on the committee.
- The Team has a limit of seven people
- There will be other opportunities for those who are not chosen for this committee, for example the search committee.
- Paul will make phone calls after thanksgiving. Kathy offered to help make the calls.

NEW BUSINESS:

December Opening Prayer: Marty offered to give the December opening prayer.

Staff Christmas Gifts: A Target \$50 gift card was given to the staff at Christmas last year, and a Target \$50 gift card was given to the staff in early spring or summer. It was decided to do the same this year.

There was a further conversation on bringing lunch or treats to the staff, including as many members of the Council as possible in this effort. Paul will make Irene Spinner's Boston bread for the staff. Carol S. volunteered to lead this endeavor. We will wait to celebrate them until after Pastor Vicki is back.

Special Recognition for Debbie and Megan: – Suggestions included a special article in the Eblast that praises Megan and Debbie, praising them in a Sunday service and giving them a little flower arrangement that they could take home and use as a table centerpiece.

New Years' Worship Service: Carole gave the schedule: No New Year's Day Service on Saturday, 1/1/2022. One service at 10:00 am on Sunday, 1/2/2022.

Part-Time Custodian: At some point, it had been agreed that there would be one more part-time custodian, but the agreement was not followed through. Paul just recently was made aware of it. Since there is no personnel committee, Paul will form a little ad hoc committee with members of the executive committee. They will work with Megan to get someone for the part-time custodian position.

There was a suggestion to engage youth in being the part time custodian, as another church had done. Because of reporting issues, quality of service issues and potential injuries, we will work to get someone who is covered by our workman's compensation policy.

Date for December Council Meeting: Membership agreed to meet on December 21 for the December Council Meeting. Paul will email the date and time of the meeting to the newly elected Council Members for 2022, who will be at the meeting

November 27 and 28 Offering Processing: Openings for offerings were filled: Saturday, 5:00 pm - Marty and Jeff; Sunday, 9:00 am - Marsha and Carole Paul asked the volunteers to sign up for these time slots in the SignUpGenius.

Other New Business:

- Juanita would like to see an announcement on Sunday about Congregational Conversations—also on Wednesday at Thanksgiving Service. Carole thanked Juanita and asked that we all talk up the Conversations and also sign up.
- Question: What can the rest of us do to help get a better accounting firm lined up?
Discussion included
 - The problem with getting a new company is that you would experience a learning curve again.
 - Some of the Finance Committee have been having Zoom meetings with the owner and the person who is doing the bookkeeping for us, and have expressed our frustrations. They will get back to us next Tuesday. They may tell us that we should look for another company because of our unique situation.
 - The best situation would be to find someone who could be part of the staff. The job description needs to be changed.
 - Debbie has asked that someone be brought in from ACS to provide training for the current staff. That could be helpful when the new person comes for Debbie to be the back up.

Jeff moved that the meeting be adjourned. Carol seconded the motion. Meeting ended at 6:44 p.m.

Pastor Carole led the members in the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Herron