

ST. LUCAS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 15, 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, who had a last-minute conflict

CLASS of 2023 MEMBERS present: Marsha Fey, Jack Laudenslager, Paul Simons, Marty Schmidt, and Juanita Wagner

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 6:05 PM with a prayer by Rev. Smutz.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Preschool: **See Attached.**

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

CLERGY REPORTS:

Rev. Archer has submitted a letter of resignation that was distributed to the Council members earlier in the day. She has been called to the position of sole pastor at Eden UCC in Affton. Don asked if this move has been approved by the Association and Conference. Kelly responded that it had been done with full approval of the Conference. Associate Conference Minister Rev. Damian Lake has been her contact person for her program of growth in recent months. She received the call to serve Eden UCC within the last 24 hours before notifying St. Lucas. Letters will be sent tomorrow to the congregation. Kelly requested permission to leave St. Lucas at the end of January to start her new position. Kelly's contract calls for a 90-day notice. Don made the following **motion**: *We hereby reluctantly accept Kelly's resignation effective 31 January 2021. We would like to thank her for her wondrous service over the last three years to St. Lucas and wish her the upmost success in her call to serve as pastor of Eden United Church of Christ in Affton, Missouri.* Ken seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Kelly requested that we have a release of call service for her and that she have an exit interview.

Rev. Smutz echoed Kelly's words that the move is bittersweet. He thanked her and praised her for being a good partner and teammate. He envisions that we can plan some sort of distanced, drive-by goodbye celebration for Kelly and the congregation.

The pastors and staff are busy producing a number of worship services in several formats for the rest of this year. We have the pre-recorded children's Christmas pageant that will be released for our 4th Saturday/Sunday of Advent. There will be a Blue Christmas/Service of the Longest Night meditation that will involve readings and some embedded videos. That service is directed towards those who are finding this season emotionally challenging this year. There will be three services available on Christmas Eve: a pre-recorded family-oriented one, a pre-recorded "Lessons and Carols" worship service and a 9 PM live, drive-in worship service in the form of a radio show in the east parking lot. There will also be a pre-recorded worship service for Christmas Day. Pastor Kelly will preach on December 27th.

BUSINESS - REPORTS:

Report of Covid-19 Task Team- Bill/Dave: There will be no more task force meetings held in 2020.

Finance Committee Report- There was no report due to Gregg's unplanned absence.

Building and Grounds: Skip brought up the issue of repairs to the social hall and office area roof, which is outside of the scope of the Cool, Safe and Dry program. The expense could turn out to be greater than 1% of the church budget, requiring a vote of the congregation for approval of the expense. Paul commented that the bylaws allow for a special congregational meeting can be called to obtain such approval. There was considerable discussion about the process of bringing forward a request for funding of those repairs. Justin made a **motion** to request that Building and Grounds provide the Council with a specific proposal for Council to vote on at the January Council meeting. The proposal should describe the root cause, the issue and a quote of an approximate cost. Confirmation of whether asbestos is involved will be needed in order to obtain an accurate quote. Joanne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

A new maintenance issue has come to light. The sewer for the sexton's house has a blockage. In the last few days a plumber has used a video camera to determine that the drain is clogged under the street, which could be quite expensive to repair. Skip raised the issue that no money is budgeted for Building and Grounds to use for emergency repairs.

Paul will follow up with the Committee regarding actions required for the roof repairs to the Social Hall and office areas and the sewer repair at the former Sexton's house.

OPEN FORUM:

Jack encouraged the Council to take a deep breath and smile.

Dave thanked the retiring members for their dedicated service on the Council.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 with Kelly leading the Lord's Prayer.

The pastors and retiring members were asked to depart the meeting so the 2021 Council could select officers for the upcoming year.

After discussion, the 2021 Council members elected the following slate of officers:

President – Paul Simons

Vice President – Joy Dressel

Financial Secretary – Jack Laudenslager

Treasurer – Randy Jurgensen

Secretary – Debbie Ball

Dave turned the meeting over to Paul and we discussed some of the tasks that we need to deal with soon.

- We should look at the 2020 Priority List created last January. Many of those items fell by the wayside due to COVID taking center stage and causing restrictions.
- The COVID Task Force might need changes in membership, such as the addition of new members as needed.
- The 2021 Council and Board and Trust members will be installed the weekend of January 2nd and 3rd.
- We need to plan a way to honor Kelly as well as arrange for a release of call service.
- We need to have a turnover of keys and cards.
- We need to designate a new person to organize offering collection volunteers when we return to in-person worship.
- We need to develop a process to conduct a review of Pastor Smutz.
- We need to figure out how we will engage youth and young people in the absence of Pastor Kelly.
- We need to start looking farther out into the future and outline how we will move forward.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:44.

Respectfully Submitted by Joy Dressel