

RICHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES

April 9, 2019

Members Present: Diane Bonin, Janet Budzeck, Pastor Steve Ernst, Jenifer Haler, Jim Honeyman, Dave Larkin, Kiane Lesser, Darrell Miles, Jeff Pilger, Valerie Silva and Pastor Corey Smith

Visitors: Adjacent Property Ministry Team representatives Tom Pitkin, Larry Haler, David Brown and Jon Erlandson; LCMC Northwest Gathering organizers Pete and Joan Mattich and Sandy Steele

Opening: The regular monthly meeting of the Richland Lutheran Church Congregation Council was held on Tuesday, April 9, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. and opened by the president, Dave Larkin. Devotions and prayer were provided by Diane Bonin.

REPORTS:

1. **Communications/Visitor Comments:**

- a. Wells Fargo problems – Sandy Steele shared her story on being a fraud victim. Sandy was president of the church council in 2016 and as a result her name and pertinent information were on file at Wells Fargo Bank, which is how the perpetrator accessed what they needed to open a bank account and obtain a credit card in her name. She stated Wells Fargo put a ‘freeze’ on the Richland Lutheran Church account and worked well with her to resolve the situation. Council members then shared their experiences with identity theft.
- b. LCMC Northwest Gathering – Pete and Joan Mattich thanked the council for all it does for the church and stated the upcoming conference ‘My Feet Are on the Rock’ is set for Friday and Saturday, May 3rd and 4th at Richland Lutheran Church. Pete stated that to date they have 109 registered and are planning for 120 attendees. He provided a synopsis of the scheduled program and encouraged council members to attend. He emphasized that more volunteers are needed in the kitchen and for hospitality.
- c. Proposal for “H” House demolition – Tom passed out the Adjacent Property Ministry Team’s proposal for demolishing the 1517 “H” house concurrent with the previously approved demolition of the house and garage located at 1513-1515 Kimball. The proposal stated it would create greater flexibility for Richland Lutheran Church, eliminate an ‘island’ effect that limits RLC utilization and would continue to complement our church’s long range planning for overflow parking and future expansion.
- d. 2019 Scholarship Committee schedule – Dave provided a status report from Todd Maier outlining some of the planned activities for the committee. After some discussion, council recommended the committee begin the application process and provide to the council for the May meeting the number of scholarships to be awarded and the available amounts in hopes the awards can be made in June so students can adequately plan for their year ahead.

e. Dunamis conference – Val shared her experience attending this conference and her concerns on what is being done to maintain our spiritual wellness and support of each other at Richland Lutheran Church. Pastor remarked that staff and lay people meet once a week to pray for the council, the staff and the church as a whole.

2. **Presidents Report:** Dave highlighted these areas from his report:

- a. Sam Geyer's acceptance to serve as Interim Associate Pastor during Pastor Corey's sabbatical
- b. meetings held with Michelle Clary, Piton, James Utz, Wells Fargo and Tyler Wanke, Thrivent to discuss investment options and serve as the church's financial advisor
- c. council waiting for a letter from the Northwest CPA Group consultant with his opinions on various financial issues

3. **Staff Reports:**

Lead Pastor's Report – Pastor Steve asked if council members had any questions and then he commented on the following:

- He will talk to Ellie Rosser and Sam Geyer regarding their help this summer while Pastor Corey is on sabbatical.
- He shared his concern that attendance is down and asked council members to let him know if they hear anything.
- Pastor stated he had received quite a few e-mails about non-compliance concerning access to the tunnels under the church.
- Currently have between 10 and 12 potential new small groups, which will be forming the first week of May with kick-off set for April 28th.
- Scrip Program – for December, 2018 through March, 2019 there has been a profit of \$241.00 for the food pantry and financial contributions have increased.
- Memorials – a list of memorials and associated dollar amounts were reviewed.

Associate Pastor's Report – Pastor Corey shared in his report that he has been receiving photos, articles, etc. about RLC's history for the new hallway display and that he has been invited during his sabbatical to preach at Dunfermline Abbey in Dunfermline, Scotland and to use their chapel for daily study, prayer and reflection. The Christian Service report for March highlighted a request to the City of Richland for a spring/early summer project and the need for one additional tutor.

4. **Financial Report:** Jeff reviewed the report and responded to questions asked by council members. He reported that property maintenance expense had increased in March, but otherwise the budget looks good. He stated he continues to work on making changes to the Balance Sheet to have it better reflect RLC funds.

ACTION ITEMS:

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously approving the following without discussion:

1. Council meeting minutes for March 12, 2019
2. Approve a dinner fundraiser sometime in May for the Lodge Grass ministry
3. Record by electronic communications the unanimous approval of the Interim Associate Pastor's job description

Old Business:

1. Funding, Money Gathering Policy – Jeff outlined suggested changes to this policy. After council discussion, a motion was made, seconded and passed approving this policy with the recommended changes.
2. Executive Limitations Policy – Darrell reported no changes to the policy were needed. A motion was then made, seconded and passed approving this policy 'as is' with no changes.

New Business:

1. Adjacent Properties Policy - Jim commented on suggested changes to this policy. After council discussion, a motion was then made, seconded and passed approving this policy with the recommended changes.
2. Benevolence Policy - Val commented on suggested changes to the policy. After council discussion, a motion was then made, seconded and passed approving the policy with the recommended changes.
3. Church Staff Employment Policy – Dave described the suggested changes to this policy. After council discussion, a motion was then made, seconded and passed approving this policy with the recommended changes.
4. Financial Policy – Jeff remarked no changes were needed to this policy. A motion was then made, seconded and passed approving this policy 'as is' with no changes.
5. Gift Acceptance Policy – Jenifer outlined the suggested changes to this policy. After council discussion, a motion was then made, seconded and passed approving this policy with the recommended changes contingent on attorney approval.
6. Internal Audit Policy - Kiane commented on a suggested change to the policy. After council discussion, a motion was then made, seconded and passed approving this policy 'as is' with no changes.
7. Urgent Assistance Policy - Diane reported no changes were needed to this policy. A motion was then made, seconded and passed approving this policy 'as is' with no changes.
8. Adjacent Property Ministry Team proposal to demolish the 1517 "H" house – After council discussion, the decision was made that this is not the time to take on this

additional task. Consensus was that it would be more acceptable to the congregation if smaller steps were taken.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Jenifer encouraged youth to attend the LCMC conference
2. Prayer Vigil schedule: Maundy Thursday, April 18th and Good Friday, April 19th from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. each day with the suggestion to pray at home from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m.
3. Council Action list as provided by Dave
4. MALT meetings – Christian Service on April 29th at 6:00 p.m., Worship on April 22nd at 7:00 p.m., Stewardship on April 23rd at 5:00 p.m. and Spiritual Growth on April 24th at 4:30 p.m.
5. Team Night on April 25th at 6:30 p.m.
6. Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 6th at 5:00 p.m. and next council meeting on Tuesday, May 14th at 7:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Dave called an executive session to order at 9:25 p.m. to discuss the Lead Pastor Evaluation. The session ended at 9:40 p.m. and the regular council meeting was called to order. Dave will send an acceptance letter of the Lead Pastor's Evaluation to the office.

CLOSING:

Dave adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m. and council members joined hands to close with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Council Secretary Janet R. Budzeck