

**RICHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES
December 8, 2020**

Members Present: Diane Bonin, Janet Budzeck, Pastor Steve Ernst, Jenifer Haler, Jim Honeyman, Fred Kremmer, Kiane Lesser, Bill Peterson, Valerie Silva and Sandy Steele

Visitors: New council members beginning their terms in 2021 - Jeanne Dillner, Kristen Imhoff and Jan Leitz

Opening: The regular monthly meeting of the Richland Lutheran Church Congregation Council was held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via 'Zoom' due to the Corona Virus pandemic quarantine and opened by the president, Sandy Steele. Devotions and prayer were provided by Bill.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. **President's Report** – Sandy welcomed the new incoming council members and extended appreciation to outgoing council members Janet, Jenifer, Jim and Kiane for their dedication and service to the council. She commented on the 'zoom' meeting held to discuss a merger between Richland Lutheran Church (RLC) and Good News Media Ministry with a target year of 2022. Sandy also reported that the Scholarship Committee had received only one application; therefore, the committee approved awarding all of the \$4,000.00 to Kelly Westlund.
2. **Lead Pastor's Report** – Pastor Steve commented on the following:
 - a. Pastor thanked the outgoing council members for their faithful, dedicated service and encouraged the incoming council members to ask questions and not hesitate to share their comments.
 - b. Pastor shared that the Boy Scouts have already found a new Scoutmaster and that Russ Warren and Amanda Daniels have been working together to assemble and lead the RLC Boy Scout Ministry Team. He stated Brian Killand and Erlan Leitz have both agreed to serve on that team.
 - c. Pastor remarked the work of the Adjacent Property Ministry Team has been completed with demolition of the rental houses. He suggested a 'thank you' card be sent to each of the team members for their service. The team consisted of Dave Brown, Jon Erlandson, Larry Haler and Tom Pitkin. Pastor also suggested that a task force be formed to discuss the best interim usage of the property in the short term since the church will not be ready to continue the Facilities Long Range Plan anytime soon. Bill commented that he and John Umbarger have had discussions with the Boys & Girls Club concerning a potential partnership.
3. **Financial Report** - Bill reported the church is staying on budget and spending less than receiving. Investments continue to do well. He stated the request for Payroll Protection Plan funds was submitted in November, but it could possibly take up to 60 days for a response; therefore, these funds have not been included in the current financial numbers.

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

1. Council meeting minutes from the regular November 10, 2020, meeting.
2. Approve rental value of \$1,030.00 per month for 2021 for Pastor Steve's residence at 1015 Farrell.
3. Approve designating \$24,000.00 as the 2021 housing allowance for Pastor Steve.

Old Business:

1. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Staffing Review Committee's final report with the recommendations listed below. After discussing the report, the motion was approved.
 - a. The Associate Pastor position not be filled at this time.
 - b. Interim Contemporary Music Coordinator position be made a regular position and combined with the Traditional Music Coordinator position.
 - c. Interim Visitation Pastor position be made a regular position.
 - d. Approve recommended changes to the job descriptions for the following; Visitation Pastor, Youth and Family Minister, Ministry Assistant for Spiritual Growth & Worship and Ministry Assistant for Christian Services.
 - e. Council assure compliance with RLC's Soul Care Policy.
 - f. Approve formation of a 'Volunteer Coordination Team'.
2. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Contemporary Music Coordinator Search Team's recommendation to offer Susie Nunamaker the position of Music Coordinator. Following discussion, the motion was approved. Pastor Steve stated he would put together a job description for approval at the next council meeting.
3. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Audit Committee's final report. Following discussion, the motion passed. The Audit Committee Task Force will review the recommendations made by the Audit Committee and report their findings to the council.
4. 75th Anniversary Celebration – discussion centered on whether or not the committee should continue to plan for this celebration under the current circumstances. The decision was made to postpone the 75th anniversary celebration to the fall of 2021 at the earliest, subject to COVID-19 restrictions. The suggestion was made to consider other small, encouraging COVID-safe ways of celebration leading up to the major event.

New Business:

1. A motion was made and seconded approving Brian Killand, Erlan Leitz and Tim and Amanda Daniels to serve on the Scouting Ministry Team. With no discussion, the motion passed.
2. 2021 MALT Assignments – Sandy explained the MALT team's duties and asked the current and new council members to let her know via e-mail which MALT Team they would like to serve on.
3. A motion was made and seconded approving the following financial distribution for the 4th Quarter benevolences: \$1,000.00 – Rebuilding Mid-Columbia, \$1,500.00 – Second Harvest,

\$1,000.00 – Chaplaincy Health Care, \$3,906.80 – Samaritan’s Purse (Penley’s fund), \$1,000.00 SIGN Fracture Care, \$1,200.00 Gather 4 Him, \$1,000.00 – Liberty Christian School, \$1,000.00 – My Friends Place, \$1,000.00 – Safe Harbor Support Center, \$2,500.00 – Flourish Mid-Columbia and \$1,000.00 – Hope Medical. In response to the question what service does Rebuilding Mid-Columbia provide, Valerie stated they are a local charity similar to Habitat for Humanity that works on improving problems in existing homes. With no further discussion, the motion passed.

4. Approve Key/Code Holder Policy and Request/Agreement Form – A motion was made and seconded to approve this policy and form. After discussion took place, the motion passed. Sandy stated that those individuals who currently have keys for the old locks should return them to Lisa Wiegand at the church.
5. Discuss/approve formation of an Adjacent Property Task Force – A motion was made and seconded approving formation of this task force. After discussion, it was suggested that the motion be withdrawn; therefore it was withdrawn.
6. Identify one candidate for the Scholarship Committee, three candidates for the Compensation Committee and one candidate for the Audit Committee – individuals who were suggested to serve on these respective teams will be contacted by council members. Sandy asked council members to prayerfully consider candidates to fill these vacancies.

Fred mentioned that a member of the congregation had asked him if the church would consider putting a basketball hoop in the parking lot. Pastor Steve offered to discuss the suggestion with the staff and check with the insurance company for liabilities.

Pastor stated he and Sandy will be working on a series of on-line videos to serve as orientation for the new council members. The first video will be available in January before the next council meeting and can be viewed at individual’s leisure.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Devotions for the January 12th council meeting – Diane
2. Preview article – Bill for December 15th and Diane for January 15th
3. November MALT meetings via Zoom: Worship, Spiritual Growth and Biblical Stewardship will not be meeting, but Christian Services will meet on Tuesday, December 22nd at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURN: Diane offered a word of prayer and Sandy adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Council Secretary Janet R. Budzeck