**RICHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 9, 2016**

**Members Present:** Pastor Steve Ernst, Sarah Hagensen, Todd Maier, Sandy Steele, Norm Gillette, Bob Thompson, Janet Budzeck, Rick Snyder, Joel Sorensen

**Members Absent:** Mike Strasberg

**Guests:** Pastor Corey Smith, Elaine Keyes

The regular monthly meeting of the Richland Lutheran Church Congregation Council was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2016, with President Bob Thompson opening the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Joel Sorensen led devotions and prayer.

**Communications:**

* The Staff/Council retreat is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 22 and 23.
* Several recent donations have been received- one is for Good News Media Ministry for sanctuary lighting improvements, the other not specifically designated.
* Richland Lutheran Church is again placing short daily Lenten devotional videos on the website. This year these devotionals will be presented by members of the staff and congregation council among others.
* Pastor Ernst summarized the Quarter Ministry Plan progress as successful.

**Staff Reports:**

Lead Pastor – Steve Ernst

* The “Gospel of Americas or the Gospel of Jesus” class is well attended and is going very well.
* Worship attendance: Weekly average - January 2016: 304 (January 2015:332).
* Memorials: Floyd Thompson, January 17; Jackie Cross, January 21.

Associate Pastor – Corey Smith

* New members annual event in January was a success.
* A fund-raiser for the Annual Youth Beach Trip will be held in mid-February.

Facilities Building Committee Liaison – Dave Larkin

* Mr. Larkin updated the committee on the Committee’s progress, saying that the Committee is preparing a Strategic Facilities Plan to be presented to the Congregation. He reported the Committee is also developing an analysis of repair and maintenance issues and costs relating to the existing facility.

Finance Report – Rick Snyder

**Financial Report/Capital Account**

Giving exceeded expenses in Calendar Year 2015 by $14,997.

***Monthly (as of December-2015)***

**2015 Budget 2015 Actual (Over)/Under Budget**

December Total Income $ 102,480 $ 106,435 ($ 3,955)

December Total Expense $ 72,553 $ 57,458 $ 15,095\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cash Flow $ 29,927 $ 48,977 ($19,050)

***2015 Year to Date***

**2015 Budget 2015 Actual (Over)/Under Budget**

YTD Total Income $ 840,000 $ 766,649 $ 73,351

YTD Total Expense $ 840,000 $ 751,653 $ 88,347\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cash Flow $ \_ $ 14,997 ($ 14,997)

Total Cash/Investments (Dec, 2015): $841,378, an increase of $ 104,620 from December 2014.

Total Reserves (Dec 2015): $323,855, an increase of $ 23,508 from December 2014.

Mr. Snyder will provide January and February 2016 information at the March Council meeting.

**Action Items:**

* Consent Agenda – Council approved the following without discussion:
  + January 2016 Regular Congregation Council meeting minutes.
  + Rich Barchette as representative to the Shalom Ecumenical Center Board of Directors.
* Council accepted and approved the NW *CPA” Comments and Recommendations”* and the *“Richland Lutheran Church Financial Audit Report and Certificate of Financial Review”* dated December 6, 2016, from Richard Barchet, Jon Erlandson and Debbie Maier to Dave Larkin, President of the RLC Council.
* Council approved the Richland Lutheran Church Scholarship Committee’s recommendations to be announced at a later date when recipients have been notified.
* Council approved the following proposed 2016 Benevolence total $79,200:
  + LCMC – 10% = $7,929
    - District $3,000
    - National $4,920
  + Worldwide Ministry – 25% = $19,800
    - East European Missions Network $3,500
    - Lutheran World Relief $1,000
    - World Mission Prayer League
      * Pacific NW regional $1,000
      * General Fund $2,000
    - Voice of the Martyrs $1,000
    - Mafraq Sanatorium Association $6,000
    - WyCliffe Bible Translation $1,300
    - Open Doors $1,000
    - Compassion International $1,000
    - World Relief $1,000
    - China Connect (sent 4th qtr., 2015) $1,000

* Also discussed was the Committee’s recommendation that Richland Lutheran Church should no longer provide the scholarship program as it currently exists except as such scholarships support Theological, Biblical and/or ministerial studies. The Scholarship Committee will be instructed to work out details to be presented at a future Congregation Council meeting.
* The process to be followed for funding and purchasing equipment, supplies, etc., was discussed. It was suggested that existing Congregation policies relating to gift giving and fund raising be explained to the congregation via communications vehicles such as the *Preview* in order to insure appropriate procedures are followed.
* Several individuals were identified to be considered for the Audit Committee. Each will be notified to assess their interest.

**Ministry Emphasis:** Elaine Keyes described activities of the Prayer Team Ministry.

**Executive Session:** The Council went into executive session to discuss personnel reviews.

**Adjournment:** President Thompson adjourned the meeting at 9:37 pm and closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Joel Sorensen, Secretary