

RICHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES

FEBRUARY 10, 2015

Members Present: Norm Gillette, Rich Olsen, Dave Larkin, Mike Strasberg, Sandy Steele, Sarah Hagensen, Todd Maier, Don Schmid, Steve Ernst, Joel Sorensen

Members Absent: None

Guests: Debbie Stankovich, Joseph Farrar, Corey Smith, Rich Barchet

The regular monthly meeting of the Richland Lutheran Church Congregation Council was held on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 with Dave Larkin as Chair. Norm Gillette opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with devotions and prayer.

Staff Reports: Highlights from written reports include:

Lead Pastor – Steve Ernst

- Expressed thanks to the Council and Staff for their participation in the Annual Retreat held in late January. Also thanked Paul Casey for his great work as facilitator.
- The staffing committee continues to meet. Staff members have been interviewed to gain perspective and understanding of each one's area of ministry. In addition, a "congregation staffing survey" had been developed and sent to local congregations and to LCMC congregations in the Northwest District.
- *Worship Attendance:* Jan 2015-Total 1329 (avg. 332/week); Jan 2014-Total 1424 (avg. 356/week).
- *Pastoral Acts:*
 - Baptisms: Paige Elizabeth Ingram, January 4.
 - Memorials: Helen Shadel, January 17.
- The Momentum Stewardship Emphasis (Extravagant Generosity -2015) is underway and progressing well under with the first Financial Peace University for council and staff currently underway.
- Sermon topics on Sundays during Lent will be based on the book I am a Church Member. Copies of the book will be available for the congregation to purchase during the series.

Associate Pastor – Corey Smith

- Began a new Wednesday night Bible study called "Sacred Parenting" to continue the study begun in the fall with the Family Project.
- Preparing for the annual Beach Trip Fundraiser Dinner scheduled for Friday March 6.

Director of Administration – Debbie Stankovich

- Updating the Finance and Employee Handbooks.
- Continuing to attend meetings of the Facilities Building Committee.

Approved March 10, 2015

Director of Music and Worship – Joseph Farrar

- Wrote and finalized liturgy and service music for the Lenten season.
- Working with Mike Strasberg to plan the Passover Seder meal to be held on Thursday, March 26 replacing the Lenten Evening Prayer service.
- Worked on the addition of prayer ministry members as assisting ministers during worship. They are leading the Creed and Prayers of the Church and introducing the offering.

Financial Report/Capital Account – Rich Olsen

Monthly actuals for January 2015:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	
Total income	\$51,015	\$45,647	Increase of \$5,368
Total Expense	<u>\$61,466</u>	<u>\$59,773</u>	<u>Increase of \$1,693</u>
Cash Flow Totals (\$10,450)		(\$14,126)	

Total Cash/Investments: Jan. 2015: \$699,077; a decrease of \$37,681 from \$736,758 as of Dec. 2014.

Total Reserves: Jan. 2015: \$294,322; a decrease of \$ 3,311 from \$297,633 as of Dec. 2014.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Consent Agenda** – Council approved the following without discussion:
 - a. The minutes of the regular Council Meeting of January 13, 2015.
 - b. The following fund-raising activities for 2015: the EEMN trip to Estonia, The Beach Trip Dinner, The Mission Trip Fundraiser Letters, The GNMM (Good News Media Ministry) Antique Sale, the GNMM Arts & Crafts Sale, the GNMM Yard Sale, and Operation Christmas Child.
 - c. The serving of wine during the Seder Meal scheduled for March 26 at Richland Lutheran Church.
 - d. Documenting a clarification that the sanctuary area was included in the scope of where facility modifications are to be considered to better support ministries.
2. **Adjacent Property Assistance** – Council approved a proposal to authorize Debbie Stankovich to work with Everstar property managers to evaluate and develop a possible special/fair rental arrangement not to exceed three months in order to deal with a situation where an existing tenant is currently unemployed and potentially unable to pay all or part of the rent for the property.

MINISTRY EMPHASIS- Rich Barchet described the mission and activities of Shalom Ecumenical Center which was established in May of 1996 with a mission statement: “to serve the low-income elderly and disabled by providing affordable housing and related services where needed.” Current members of the corporation are All Saints Episcopal Church, Lord of Life Lutheran Church and Richland Lutheran Church. Directors of the corporation are appointed by its member congregations (three each) or appointed by the board.

INFORMATION ITEMS-

Approved March 10, 2015

1. Pastor Ernst provided copies of the 2014 Ministry Plan Report detailing activities during the year.
2. Pastor Ernst noted that the \$480 was distributed in 2014 from the Urgent Assistance Fund and that the fund balance as of February 10, 2015, is \$6,530.32.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – The Council went into executive session to discuss staff salary issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m. and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Joel Sorensen,

Secretary

Approved March 10, 2015