

RICHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES

January 14, 2020

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

Members Absent: Valerie Silva

Visitors: Loren Schmid and Retreat Center Committee members Lisa Corning, Dan Jordheim, Ted Steunkel and Joanne Woehle

Opening:

1. The regular monthly meeting of the Richland Lutheran Church Congregation Council was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. and opened by the president, Sandy Steele. Devotions and prayer were provided by Jenifer.

2. **Communications/Visitor Comments:** Members of the Retreat Center Committee shared their comments and concerns regarding their recommendation to distribute \$26,000.00 to the Life Extension Fund. Council extended appreciation to the committee for their diligence and hard work in reaching their decision. Final decision on this matter will take place at the yet to be determined Congregational meeting.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. **Lead Pastor's Report** – Pastor Steve shared information on Flourish Mid-Columbia, which is a new ministry for young adults. He stated the timeline for submitting to the council the revised Code of Conduct Policy is before Easter.

2. **Associate Pastor's Report** – Pastor Corey commented Christian Service is exploring the possibility of providing some meals for the Union Gospel Mission. He also shared he is excited about the new missionary couple Caleb and Emily Arnold, working with Flourish Mid-Columbia to get that ministry going and looking for a broader range of projects RLC volunteers can do taking age into consideration.

3. **Financial Report** - Bill provided an update from last month's report and suggested that an individual with a broad knowledge of Quick Books be brought in to help Lisa Wiegand become more familiar with this program. Pastor Steve recommended Kelly Westlund and Jenny Page be included to serve as backups whenever Lisa is not available. Bill also requested that in the future dollar amounts in reports include the percentage.

4. **2019 Annual Urgent Assistance Report** – Pastor Steve remarked the need was lower this year than last year.

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

1. Approve the minutes from the regular December 10, 2019, council meeting.
2. Approve the minutes from the annual Congregational meeting on October 25, 2019.
3. Approve the following 2020 fundraising activities:
 - a. Holy Jakob Church at Easter and Christmas
 - b. Estonia Eastern European Mission Network (EEMN) 2020 fundraiser letters
 - c. Good News Media Ministry yard sale and the Arts & Craft sale and antique sale
 - d. Operation Christmas Child
 - e. Vacation Bible School
 - f. Boy Scouts Christmas Wreath fundraiser
 - g. Lodge Grass Mission trip fundraiser letters

Old Business:

1. Schedule Special Congregational meeting – Council members chose Sunday, February 9th and Sunday, March 8th to host Hebrew's Café and provide information to church members concerning the recommended distributions, including the \$26,000.00 to the Life Extension Fund. Sunday, March 15th was set for the Special Congregational meeting.
2. Staffing Review Committee – Marilyn Ball accepted being on this committee.
3. Financial Audit Committee candidate – Jenifer will continue her efforts to contact Rich Olsen. An additional name was suggested that Jenifer will contact if needed.
4. Facilities Building Fundraising Committee – the names of church members were suggested and respective council members will contact them.
5. Ministry Facility Usage Vision Committee – this was tabled until closer to the beginning of the new construction
6. MALT Teams – Sandy previously e-mailed council members their team assignments.

New Business:

1. 2019 staff performance evaluations – Pastor Steve shared his recommendation for performing these evaluations in June of each year. A motion was made and seconded to defer the annual evaluations to the end of June. With no discussion, the motion was approved.
2. Staff Compensation Committee – Sandy encouraged council members to provide names at the February council meeting to fill the vacancies on this committee. Two members are needed: one to fill a two-year term (2020-2021) and one to complete a one-year term, which was vacated by Sandy.
3. 2021 Nominating Committee candidates – Sandy stated she would like to see the selection process for candidates be revised to be in alignment with the Nominating Committee's process. She asked council members to prayerfully consider possible candidates.
4. Scholarship Policy – discussion on this policy was deferred to the February meeting.

5. Richland Lutheran Church's 75th anniversary in 2021 – A motion was made and seconded approving a planning committee. With no discussion, the motion passed. Identifying committee members and beginning planning for the 75th were deferred to the February council meeting.

6. Richland Lutheran Church's 2020 Visioning - Pastor Steve stated he will do some additional groundwork and provide a purpose for the February council meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Staff/council workshop – Friday, January 24th at 7:00 p.m. and January 25th from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
2. Council commissioning – Sunday, January 26th at all three services. Sandy encouraged council members to attend all three services, if possible.
3. Council meeting and devotions – Tuesday, February 11th with Kiane providing devotions.
4. Preview article – Kiane
5. Lenten videos – Sandy circulated a sign-up sheet so council members could volunteer to do a video.

Fred commented on the importance of remembering how we touch other people's lives even with seemingly small actions and encouraged everyone to embrace 'doing life together'.

ADJOURN:

Sandy adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Council members joined hands to close with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Council Secretary Janet R. Budzeck