

## RICHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES

January 8, 2019

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

**Absent:** Kiane Lesser and Darrell Miles

**Visitors:** Dave Brown and Larry Haler, representatives from the Adjacent Property Ministry Team

**Opening:** The regular monthly meeting of the Richland Lutheran Church Congregation Council was held on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. and opened by the president, Dave Larkin. Devotions and prayer were provided by Jeff Pilger.

### **REPORTS:**

1. **Communications/Visitor Comments:** Dave provided a progress report on obtaining estimates for demolition of the building located at 1513/1515 Kimball Avenue. He stated they are looking for contractors who are able to perform the entire scope of work, which includes but is not limited to permitting, surveying, asbestos abatement, demolition, disposal and returning the land to a cleared lot. Dave asked the following questions of those present and received council's response:
  - a.** How many estimates should be obtained? Three (3)
  - b.** The porches and roof are in pretty good shape and not a safety concern. Should any repair or painting be done to these for aesthetic reasons? NoThe lease for the existing tenant in 1515 Kimball Avenue is due to expire on August 8, 2019. Discussion then centered on the condition and lease of the "H" house. The lease for this house expires in March, 2019. It was decided to instruct the church's property management company to extend this lease to August, 2019 to coincide with the Kimball house lease and then have the leases go month-to-month. Dave suggested that the dumping permit with the City of Richland be activated, which will save the church some money when disposing of the demolition debris. Pastor Steve stated he will have Lisa take care of this task, as well as contacting the property management company. In order to keep the congregation informed on council actions pertaining to the adjacent properties, Dave and Larry will write an article for the Preview.
2. **Presidents Report:** After reviewing his report, Dave stated the City of Richland is asking their city council for an 8% electrical rate increase. He also reported that as approved at the December council meeting, the individuals stocks have been sold. Dave and Jeff will meet with Wells Fargo representative James Utz to obtain some suggestions on where the funds can be reinvested. These suggestions will be shared with the Finance Committee, who will make the final decision on where to reinvest the funds. In

submitting the request to sell stocks, council officer's names were provided. Council discussed maintaining the authority of non-elected Finance Team members to give buy or sell orders to Wells Fargo and decided to limit it to elected officials. Jeff will inform the previous signees of this change.

3. **Staff Reports:**

Lead Pastor's Report – Pastor Steve commented on the following:

- Encouraged council members to attend Team night on the third Thursday of each month (Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.)
- Reminded members of the council retreat scheduled for Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast to approximately 2:00 p.m. Installation of council members will take place at each service on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Associate Pastor's Report – Pastor Corey commented the Visual Arts Ministry Team will be meeting next week to continue brainstorming ideas for the RLC history timeline for the hallway. He also stated he had submitted a sabbatical request for June 3<sup>rd</sup> to August 26<sup>th</sup> of this year.

4. **Financial Report:** Jeff reviewed the report and responded to questions asked by council members.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Consent Agenda:**

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

1. Council meeting minutes for December 11, 2018
2. Setting Sunday, October 27, 2019 for the Annual Congregational Meeting
3. Lori Maier for three year term on the Financial Audit Committee (2019 – 2021)
4. Carl Schroder as a member of the Retreat Center Committee
5. The following Fund Raising Events:
  - a. Holy Jakob Church at Easter and Christmas
  - b. Estonia EMMN 2019 Fundraiser letters
  - c. Good News Media Ministry Antique sale, Arts and Crafts sale and Yard sale
  - d. Operation Christmas Child
  - e. Vacation Bible School

**Old Business:**

1. Annual report on uses of the Urgent Assistance Fund for 2018 – Pastor Steve reported three families were helped, leaving a balance of approximately \$400.00 in the fund. Ideas were shared on possible options for adding additional dollars to this fund. A suggestion was made that possibly the church could offer gifts or interest-free loans

through this fund to help those impacted by the government shutdown. It was decided to wait until the February meeting to discuss this further.

2. Addition of two members to the Facilities Building Fundraising Committee – council members suggested individuals who might consider being on this committee. Council member's volunteered to contact the individuals to see if they will serve and then let Dave know the outcome. Dave will e-mail to council members a copy of the charter for this committee.

**New Business:**

1. Discussion on funding ideas for the Urgent Assistance Fund was postponed until the February council meeting.
2. Long Range Plan – need to begin thinking about individuals names to be on a task force that will work on a new plan to replace the last one, which was done in 2013.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Dave called an executive session to order at 8:52 p.m. to discuss private church matters. The session ended at 9:02 p.m. and the regular council meeting was called to order.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

1. Council action list
2. Council/staff retreat and member installation
3. New member's annual potluck – Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.
4. Team Night – Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.
5. MALT meetings – Stewardship on Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and Spiritual Growth on Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30 p.m. Times and dates for Worship and Serve teams are to be determined.

**CLOSING:**

Dave adjourned the meeting at 9:08 p.m. and council members joined hands to close with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Council Secretary Janet R. Budzeck