

RICHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES
July 14, 2020

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

Opening: The regular monthly meeting of the Richland Lutheran Church Congregation Council was held on Tuesday, July 14, 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 Diane.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. **President's Report** – Sandy shared that the Nominating Committee has completed their task and the Audit Committee has started meeting. The COVID-19 Team continues to meet and she has asked them to consider a way to hold the Special Congregation meeting for the vote to approve distribution of the Retreat Center funds, as well as an alternate plan for holding the Annual Meeting in October. She also stated that the Adjacent Properties Team had informed her that the neighbor next to the Stevens "B" house had requested a 10' to 12' strip of the church's property in order for him to widen his driveway. After discussing the request, council reached a consensus to decline the request and let the neighbor know that the church has plans for the property.
2. **Lead Pastor's Report** – Pastor Steve commented how God uses all situations for good and that he is getting into a routine with his daily devotions, as well as with his other tasks.
3. **Associate Pastor's Report** – Pastor Corey shared a mockup of the wall display for the Visual Arts Project he has been working on with Teresa Woehle and explained how the information in the display had been attained. He encouraged council members to let him know any additional information they might have for inclusion in the display, which is being put together to highlight what God has done at Richland Lutheran Church. He stated the Zoom Living Room worship on Thursday evenings is going great and former youth from the church have started watching. At the next live-streamed church service, Corey remarked the organ will be added to the service as the offering was added to last week's service.
4. **Financial Report** - Bill reported income is down slightly, but the church is not in financial trouble. At the present time, it appears the funds received from the Paycheck Protection Program under the Corona Virus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) will be fully forgiven. He commented he had been asked to write an article for the July Preview with regard to stewardship to help keep the congregation informed.

CONSENT AGENDA: A motion was made, seconded and passed approving without discussion the council meeting minutes from the regular June 9, 2020, meeting.

Old Business:

1. Discuss and approve the Christian Education Scholarship Policy – After reviewing the proposed changes to the policy, a motion was made and seconded to approve it with the recommended changes. Following brief discussion, the motion passed.
2. 2021 Ministry Plan and Budget Preparation status – the MALT Teams continue to work on their proposed budgets for discussion and possible approval at the next council meeting.
3. Identify and approve a member for the Shalom Ecumenical Center Board to replace Rich Olsen. Sandy stated this will be carried over to next month's council meeting.

New Business:

1. Identify three nominees to serve on the 2021 Nominating Committee – Sandy shared the list of suggested names given to her by the current Nominating Committee. Council members volunteered to call specific individuals on the list to gauge if they are interested in serving on the committee or not. Further action will take place at the next council meeting.
2. Discuss and approve putting an LED light strip at the base of the chancel wall in the sanctuary – A motion was made and seconded approving the installation of the light strip to alleviate the shadows caused by the new lighting in the sanctuary. After discussing the request, the motion passed.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Devotions for the August council meeting – Fred Kremmer
2. Preview article – Diane for July and Fred for August
3. July MALT meetings via Zoom: Worship on Thursday, July 23rd at 11:30 a.m.; Spiritual Growth on Monday, July 27th at 5:00 p.m.; Christian Service on Tuesday, July 28th at 5:00 p.m. and Biblical Stewardship on Monday, July 27th at 4:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

An Executive Session was called at 8:28 p.m. to discuss the following:

- a. Staff Compensation Committee recommendations for 2021
- b. 2021 staffing and benefits

The Executive Session closed at 9:55 p.m.

ADJOURN:

Jenifer closed with a prayer, after which Sandy adjourned the Zoom meeting at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Council Secretary Janet R. Budzeck