

RICHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES

June 9, 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, June 9, 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 Jim.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. **President's Report** – Sandy shared the following information: (a) Compensation Committee is close to making their recommendations to the council, (b) Audit Committee has not yet met, (c) Nominating Committee is close to finalizing their recommendations to the council and (d) she is working with Todd Maier on the Christian Education Scholarship Policy.
2. **Lead Pastor's Report** – Pastor Steve reported he has been working on the following: (a) COVID-19 Exposure Prevention, Preparedness & Response Plan with the Safety Response Team, (b) letter to the congregation regarding the Christian Response to the current racism issues and (c) continuing on-line devotions, family chat, etc. He also asked for prayers for himself and Pastor Corey concerning ongoing political issues.
3. **Associate Pastor's Report** – Pastor Corey shared a picture of the Visual Arts Project he has been working on with Teresa Woehle. He commented the next step most likely would be approval of the draft concept, as well as for materials and funding possibly from Memorial funds. He also remarked the MALT Teams task to cut their budgets went smoother than he thought it would, to which Sandy commented they did a great job. Val shared she enjoys the Living Room Worship Pastor Corey does on Thursday evenings.
4. **Financial Report** - Bill reported income increased slightly, but the Paycheck Protection Program under the Corona Virus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) changed from starting as a loan to now being approved as a grant will help with future expenses. He commented the budget cuts made by the MALT teams met and exceeded what was requested.

CONSENT AGENDA: A motion was made, seconded and passed approving the council meeting minutes from the regular May 12, 2020, meeting without discussion.

Old Business:

1. Chapter 12 – Congregation Committees: Sandy stated that the previously approved C12.02 in the constitution conflicts with C12.02.01.c in the bylaws, which necessitates a revision to the approved recommendation to correct the potential conflict. A motion

was made and seconded approving this revision. With no discussion, the motion passed.

2. Review and approve Constitution/Bylaws:
 - a. Chapter 14 – Discipline of Members and Adjudication: Sandy thanked Jenifer for volunteering to review and draft a revised chapter to present to the council. Jenifer stated she interviewed two former council presidents and read multiple books to help her in drafting this revision. A motion was made and seconded to approve this revision. With no discussion, the motion passed.
 - b. Chapter 15 – Bylaws: Diane and Kiane stated no changes were needed.
 - c. Chapter 16 – Amendments: Janet and Fred stated no changes were needed.
 - d. Chapter 17 – Continuing Education: Diane and Kiane reported no changes were needed.
 - e. Chapter 18 – Indemnification: Jenifer and Val said no changes were needed.
 - f. Additional Information – Janet and Fred recommended deleting this entire section. A motion was made and seconded approving this recommendation. With no discussion, the motion passed.
3. Identify and approve a member for the Shalom Ecumenical Center Board to replace Rich Olsen. Pastor Steve suggested Karen Filipy. Sandy will contact Rich Barchet and let him know so he can give her a call.

New Business:

1. COVID-19 Safety Response Team Phase 1 recommendations - Pastor remarked the team is taking a conservative approach to returning to regular worship and they will be mailing out to the congregation in the near future the recommended plan. Jenifer suggested having a 'drive thru' parking lot parade celebration when demolition of the two remaining houses is complete.
2. 2020 Benevolence budget – Council members approved tabling further discussion to the August/September timeframe.
3. 2021 Ministry Plan and budget preparation – it was suggested to begin this process to have the MALT teams review their budgets. Sandy will write an article for the July Preview and for the Grapevine inviting the congregation to submit any new ministry requests for 2021.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Keep in prayer the 2021 Nominating Committee as they finalize their recommendations for next year's council candidates
2. Council devotions for July 14th - Diane
3. June Preview article – Jim; July Preview article - Diane

4. June MALT meetings via Zoom: Worship on Thursday, June 25th at 11:30 a.m.; Spiritual Growth on Monday, June 22nd at 5:00 p.m.; Christian Service on Tuesday, June 23rd at 5:00 p.m. and Biblical Stewardship on Monday, June 22nd at 4:00 p.m. Sandy suggested council members check with their respective teams to make sure these meeting dates are correct.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

An Executive Session was called at 8:20 p.m. to discuss the following:

- a. Chapter 8 – Pastors (Constitution): Sandy pointed out that C8.12 of the previously approved recommended revision is misleading as written and she suggested a revision to the statement. A motion was made and seconded approving the revision. With no discussion, the motion passed.
- b. 2020 Salaries & Benefits budget – Council discussed this issue with no action taken.

The Executive Session closed at 8:35 p.m.

Val commented that the weeds at the Stevens Drive house look really bad and she wondered if there was someone who would volunteer their time to get rid of them. Fred said he would check and take care of the problem.

ADJOURN:

Kiane closed with a prayer, after which Sandy adjourned the Zoom meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Council Secretary Janet R. Budzeck