

RICHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES

May 12, 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, May 12, 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 Janet.

Visitors: Amanda Daniels, Youth & Family Ministry staff member, reported there are six (6) graduating seniors this year who attend RLC. The sewing ladies gave a quilt to each senior and council members have been discussing what form of recognition the church can give to recognize these seniors since Christian Education Scholarships will not be awarded this year.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. **President's Report** – Sandy congratulated Diane on winning the RLC Family Chat award and thanked Valerie for her thoughts and concerns with regard to staff and all the extra work they are putting in to provide on-line Sunday services, Pastor Steve's daily devotions and Pastor Corey's Living Room Worship to name just a few. Sandy also reported the church is moving ahead with the demolition project and completing the lighting project in the sanctuary. She stated RLC applied for and received a grant from the Pay Back Protection Program.
2. **Lead Pastor's Report** – Pastor Steve reported usage has drastically increased on the church's You Tube channel, Facebook and Subscribership. He stated on-line giving has increased and member's donations are now getting to the church since all mail is being held at the post office. He remarked that the church should begin planning what steps it will take to enable us to get back together.
3. **Associate Pastor's Report** – Pastor Corey commented the Living Room Worship on Thursday evenings via Facebook Live will now be offered weekly and weekend lunches for Jefferson Elementary have resumed and will be packed next week. Pastor Corey asked for prayers for the MALT teams as they continue to meet via Zoom and he shared he is just finishing his second semester at ILT.
4. **Financial Report** - Bill reported the church is facing a budget deficit of several thousand dollars and that RLC applied for and received funds from the Economic Injury & Disaster Program, which will help with payroll expenses. He mentioned the possibility of the church getting its own mailbox in the future instead of having a box at the post office. This idea will be discussed at a later date.

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

1. Approve the council meeting minutes from the regular April 14, 2020, meeting.
2. Approve the 2nd Quarter Benevolence gifts for \$21,606.80 (20%) for international ministries: a. Eastern European Missions Network - \$2,500.00, b. Lutheran World Relief - \$1,250.00, c. World Mission Prayer League (general fund) - \$1,000.00, d. Voice of the Martyrs - \$1,500.00, e. Annoor Sanatorium - \$6,000.00, f. Wycliffe Bible Translators - \$1,000.00, g. Open Doors - \$1,000.00, h. Compassion International (where most needed) - \$1,250.00, i. World Relief - \$1,000.00, j. Tartu Academy of Theology/Home of Hope (Estonia) - \$2,000.00, k. Global Health Ministries – \$500.00, l. Food for the Poor - \$500.00, m. Christmas Shoe Project - \$606.80 and n. Ethnos 360 – Arnold Family/Mexico - \$1,500.00.
3. Approve the following individuals to serve on the 75th Anniversary Planning Committee: Rich Barchet, Valerie Bettinson, Karen Clark, Tim Gese, Susie McKinney, Sue Meek, Mary Jo Schroeder and Eunice Weible

Old Business:

1. Review and approve Constitution/Bylaws:
 - a. Chapter 10 – Officers: no changes were recommended
 - b. Chapter 11 – Congregation Council: Sandy explained the suggested changes and a motion was made and seconded to approve them. With no further discussion, the motion passed.
 - c. Chapter 12 – Congregation Committees: Sandy reviewed the suggested changes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the changes excluding C12.04.01. After discussing the motion, it passed.
 - d. Chapter 13 – Organizations within the Congregation: no changes were needed
 - e. Chapter 14 – Discipline of Members & Adjudication: after Sandy outlined the suggested changes, those present felt this chapter needed additional review. A motion was made and seconded to table further action until the June council meeting. The motion passed with no further discussion. Jenifer offered to work on this chapter for next month's review.
2. Identify and approve members for the following committees:
 - a. Facilities Fundraising Committee (2 more) – Biblical Stewardship MALT
 - b. 2020 Visioning Team (2 more) – Pastor Steve
 - c. Shalom Ecumenical Center Board to replace Rich Olson - Rich BarchetCouncil members approved taking no action on this topic due to these uncertain times.

New Business:

1. Review and approve the 2020 Memorial list in the amount of \$10,569.00:
 - a. RLC history timeline wall project
 - b. Chapel upgrades – replace pews with padded chairs, incorporate ceiling mounted projector and sound system
 - c. Room 123 upgrade (this was approved last year, but was superseded by other projects)

A motion was made and seconded approving the recommended memorial list.

Following discussion, a motion was made, seconded and approved with one dissenting vote to amend the original motion by adding the following:

- d. **alterations deemed necessary to safely reopen RLC following the COVID-19 pandemic**

A motion was then made and seconded to approve the amended memorial list. With no further discussion, the motion passed.

2. Recognition for six (6) graduating seniors who attend RLC. A suggestion was made to highlight each senior in the June Preview with a picture and brief biography. Individual council members offered to keep in touch with a senior throughout the year to see how they are doing, etc. Amanda volunteered to serve as a resource to the council if they need additional information or have questions.
3. COVID-19 Return to Church Plan – A team has been formed to help put in place a plan in preparation for such time when we can return. Team members are : Pastor Steve Ernst, Sandy Steele, Jim Honeyman, Bill Peterson, Jenny Page and Lisa Weigand.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Keep in prayer the 2021 Nominating Committee as they search for next year's council candidates
2. Begin preparing for the 2021 Ministry Plan and Budget
3. May Preview article – Janet; June council devotions and Preview article - Jim
4. May MALT meetings via Zoom: Worship on Thursday, May 28th at 11:30 a.m.; Spiritual Growth on Monday, May 25th at 5:00 p.m.; Christian Service on Tuesday, May 26th at 5:00 p.m. and Biblical Stewardship on Monday, May 25th at 4:00 p.m.
5. Constituion/Bylaw review at June council meeting:
 - a. Chapter 14 – Discipline of Members & Adjudication (Jenifer)
 - b. Chapter 15 – Bylaws (Diane & Kiane)
 - c. Chapter 16 – Amendments (Janet & Fred)
 - d. Chapter 17 – Continuing Resolutions (Diane & Kiane)
 - d. Chapter 18 – Indemnification (Jenifer & Val)
 - e. Additional information (Janet & Fred)

Val shared that she was sent home from work with a headache and nausea. Council members joined in prayer for God's care.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

An Executive Session was called at 9:06 p.m. to review, discuss and approve:

- a. Chapter 8 – The Pastor: Sandy reviewed the proposed changes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the changes. With no discussion, the motion passed.
- b. Chapter 4 – Powers of the Congregation: Sandy then explained the changes to this chapter were needed to align it with the Chapter 8 changes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the changes. With no discussion, the motion passed.
- c. Chapter 12 – Sandy reviewed the recommended change to C12.04.01. A motion was made and seconded to approve this change. With no discussion, the motion passed.

The Executive Session closed at 9:30 p.m.

ADJOURN:

Jenifer closed with a prayer and with the Lord's Prayer. Sandy adjourned the Zoom meeting at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Council Secretary Janet R. Budzeck