

## **RICHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES**

**May 14, 2019**

**Members Present:** Diane Bonin, Janet Budzeck, Pastor Steve Ernst, Jenifer Haler, Jim Honeyman, Kiane Lesser, Valerie Silva and Pastor Corey Smith

**Members Absent:** Dave Larkin, Darrell Miles and Jeff Pilger

**Visitors:** Bob Thompson, Todd Maier and Adjacent Property Ministry Team representatives David Brown, Larry Haler and Jon Erlandson

**Opening:** The regular monthly meeting of the Richland Lutheran Church Congregation Council was held on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. and opened by the vice-president, Jenifer Haler. Devotions and prayer were provided by Kiane Lesser. Jenifer read a section from the Roberts Rules of Order, which permits changes to the agenda. She then stated that under New Business Item #1 Room 60 Safety Repairs and Funding would be referred back to the Safety sub-committee to obtain more consensus from the Property Ministry Team and Good News Media Ministry on a definition of the scope of work, prioritized list of work tasks, timeline and proposed budget.

### **REPORTS:**

1. **Communications/Visitor Comments:**

- a. Report on Risk Management – Bob Thompson circulated an information sheet highlighting safety being practiced at all times, compliance issues, finding a solution that balances safe practices with accomplishing ministry, avoiding development of a Work-Free Safety Zone and balancing cost and benefit. He recommended the council (a) provide the Safety Sub-Committee with clear objectives, decision points and authority and (b) establish when do we hire work done, when do we have volunteers perform the work and when do we have a mix of both.
- b. Adjacent Properties Ministry Team (APMT) quote on Steven's B House – David Brown provided copies to those present on the paint quote for the house located on Stevens. He shared the following three courses of action: (1) install vinyl siding over the existing siding at a cost of \$12,975.00, (2) pressure wash and paint the existing siding at a cost of \$5,750.00 and (3) simply do nothing for the near term. The team's recommendation is to simply do nothing for the near term (3), but then place the demolition of the Stevens B house and the Kimble H house on the council agenda for next year's budget. The APMT consideration is that removal of both structures simultaneously would be consistent with the future plans for Richland Lutheran Church, would minimize total disruption to the neighborhood and congregation and reduce the maintenance overhead to RLC and potential liabilities.
- c. Scholarship Fund Committee report – Todd Maier as a representative of the committee requested up to \$3,000.00 be approved and awarded based on the quantity

and quality of applications in the 2019 scholarship cycle per the Christian Education Scholarship Policy. Minimum awards would be \$500.00 scholarships with a maximum of \$1,000.00. Deadline for applications is May 27, 2019.

d. LCMC recognition – Jenifer provided thank you cards for council members to sign recognizing those individuals involved in the N.W. District LCMC Gathering at RLC.

2. **Staff Reports:**

Lead Pastor's Report – Pastor Steve asked if council members had any questions and then he commented on the following:

- He will be preaching through the book of Phillipians this summer and Pastor Corey is putting together a series through the Gospel of John to begin this fall.
- He has been trying to use vacation time so he is in compliance with the church's vacation policy.
- Pastor stated there are currently ten (10) small groups.
- In Jenny Page's Spiritual Growth report, she commented that the company who does the church's criminal background checks recommended the church run county-specific checks for both Franklin and Benton counties. In response to this recommendation, Pastor suggested and council agreed that this should be done.

Associate Pastor's Report – Pastor Corey reported that Walter and Virginia Wood will be moving. In light of that, he recommended the Eventide program be put on hold for now. He then shared in his report the following: attended the Expository Preaching Conference in Olympia, received positive feedback on the Lenten services, continues to receive materials for the history display, had low sign-ups for the prayer vigil, kudos to the staff for their support over the last few months and his efforts to set up a retreat at the monastery near Elgin, Scotland will he is on sabbatical.

4. **Financial Report:** Copies of the financial report were provided and reviewed by council members.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Consent Agenda:**

Proposed for approval without discussion - A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously approving the minutes from the April 9, 2019 regular council meeting.

**Old Business:**

1. Revised Sabbatical Plan for Pastor Corey – A motion was made, followed by council discussion, seconded and passed approving the plan.
2. 2019 Scholarship Fund Committee recommendation – A motion was made, followed by council discussion, seconded and passed approving the recommendation.

3. Gift Acceptance Policy – With the legal review completed, a motion was made, followed by council discussion, seconded and passed approving this policy with the suggested changes.

**New Business:**

1. Steven’s B House painting or demolition – Jenifer turned the gavel over to Janet, after which Jenifer moved that the Richland Lutheran Church council chart a course for removal of the Stevens B house and Kimble H house by December 31, 2021, pending approval of the congregation at the 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting. Council discussed the proposed motion, which was seconded and passed. The gavel was then returned to Jenifer.
2. Facilities Maintenance & Modification Policy – A motion was made, followed by council discussion, seconded and passed approving the policy as amended.
3. Facilities Use Policy – Review of this policy was deferred to the June council meeting.
4. Investment Strategies Policy – A motion was made, followed by council discussion, seconded and passed approving this policy with the recommended changes.
5. Personnel Policy – A motion was made, followed by council discussion, seconded and passed approving this policy with the recommended changes. A motion was then made, followed by council discussion, seconded and passed approving the ‘Employee’ Handbook be retitled to the ‘Personnel’ Handbook.
6. Christian Education Scholarship Policy – A motion was made, followed by council discussion, seconded and passed approving this policy with the recommended changes.
7. Soul Care Policy – Action on this policy was deferred to an Executive Session.
8. Compensation Committee members – Council members suggested individuals who might consider serving on this committee. Jenifer will contact these individuals to gauge their willingness to serve.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** An executive session was called at 8:55 p.m. to discuss the Soul Care Policy. The session was closed at 9:24 p.m. and the regular council meeting was reconvened.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

1. Council Action List
2. MALT meetings – Stewardship on Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and Spiritual Growth on Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:30 p.m.
3. Team Night – Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.
4. Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Conflict Resolution Workshop from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Spokane Valley, Washington
5. Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and the regular council meeting on Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**CLOSING:**

Jenifer adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m. and council members joined hands to close with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Council Secretary Janet R. Budzeck