

RICHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES
May 8, 2018

Members Present: Janet Budzeck, Pastor Steve Ernst, Jenifer Haler, Dave Larkin, Todd Maier, Darrell Miles, Andy Ribbing, Pastor Corey Smith and Ted Stuenkel

Members Absent: Jeff Pilger and Tom Pitkin

Opening: The regular monthly meeting of the Richland Lutheran Church Congregation Council was held on Tuesday, May 8, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. and opened by the president, Dave Larkin. Devotions and prayer were provided by Todd Maier.

REPORTS:

1. **Communications/Visitor Comments:**

Jenifer stated she visited Lila Dozer Lloyd to discuss memorial book suggestions. She urged members to suggest projects that undesignated memorial funds can be used for. Jenifer also talked with Michelle Clary, who will work with Richland Lutheran Church to sponsor a shredding event on September 8th in conjunction with the Block Party.

Carol Larkin commented on the upcoming 'Who Is My Neighbor?' panel and conversation with immigrants, which is set for Sunday, May 20th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. She encouraged council members to attend and invite anyone who might be interested in hearing from immigrants in our community their life stories, challenges and perspectives.

2. **President's Report:** Dave commented on volunteer appreciation, congregation communications and council support activities. He informed those present that the Audit Committee is close to completing their task and that Jenifer will be officiating at the June and July council meetings as he will be out of town.

3. **LCMC – NW Gathering:** Jenifer reported Mot Hedges was elected President of the NW District. She commented on the guest speakers for the gathering and encouraged church members to plan ahead to attend the national gathering next year.

4. **Staff Reports:**

Lead Pastor's Report: Pastor Ernst shared highlights from his First Triannual Report and encouraged council members to commit to memory the vision and mission of Richland Lutheran Church. He also commented on displaying the pictures of former pastors and suggested an alternative might be to illustrate some of the past using a timeline, but highlight God's ministry thru Richland Lutheran Church.

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor Smith discussed general areas of his report and informed the council that he will be attending a conference in June in Olympia. Pastor

Corey stated he will be working with Pastor Karen Gardner while Pastor Ernst is on sabbatical beginning in June.

5. **Finance Report:** In the absence of Jeff Pilger, council members perused the financial report. See attached report.

ACTION ITEMS:

Consent Agenda:

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

- Approved the minutes of the April 19, 2018 regular council meeting
- Approved Chapters 13-18 of the Constitution By-laws without any changes
- Approved adding Sandy Steele as a member and committee chair of the Compensation Committee
- Approved the following as confirmed members of Richland Lutheran Church: Pete and Joan Mattich, Bob Parr, Trent and Jenna Worchester, Gloria Dillard, Tammy Maruska, Carla Williams, Seth Rosser, Penny Tidrington, Robert and Tereisa Pleyo

Old Business: The following policies were approved after discussion:

- A motion was made, seconded and passed approving the Gift Acceptance Policy as is.
- A motion was made, seconded and passed approving the Scholarship Policy as is.
- A motion was made, seconded and passed approving the Facilities Use Policy as is.
- A motion was made, seconded and passed approving the Soul Care Policy with examples provided by Jenifer. The main area of concern was how to teach the congregation to reaffirm the pastors, to which ideas were shared such as sending positive notes and/or comments.
- A motion was made, seconded and passed approving the Investment Strategies Policy as is.
- A motion was made, seconded and passed approving the Personnel Policy with editorial changes as outlined by Ted Stuenkel.

New Business:

- Exception to vacation maximum accrual policy: Dave detailed the circumstances which will cause Pastor Ernst to exceed his 60 hours vacation time. After discussing the issue, a motion was made, seconded and passed approving the exception to the policy and stating the excess time must be used by February 20, 2019 (six months) of Pastor's return from his sabbatical.

- A motion was made, seconded and passed approving the establishment of a committee to begin making plans for the 2019 LCMC-NW Gathering event, which will be held at Richland Lutheran Church.
- Approved the following potential members of the planning committee for the 2019 LCMC-NW Gathering: Rich Barchett, Eric Koehling, Trina Miles, Virginia Wood, Mot Hedges, Pete and Joan Mattich and Karen Filipy and Lisa Wiegand.
- Approved use of the church facilities by the Executive Director for Flourish Mid-Columbia. A motion was made, seconded and passed approving this use for a probationary period to August 31, 2018 and having the Executive Director complete the church's Facilities Use Application and Agreement. Pastor Ernst recused himself from voting on this issue.
- Action on the Lead Pastor's Evaluation Process was postponed to July.
- Action on the Church Discipline Policy was postponed to August.
- Review of the Facilities Maintenance Policy was postponed until June.

Adjournment: Dave adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m. and council members joined hands to close with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Council Secretary Janet R. Budzeck