

**RICHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES
November 10, 2020**

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

Opening: The regular monthly meeting of the Richland Lutheran Church Congregation Council was held on Tuesday, November 10, 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 Valerie.

Visitor: Russell Warren addressed the council as liaison for the Boy Scouts to inform them of an incident that occurred on the evening of Tuesday, November 3rd in the parking lot at Richland Lutheran Church. He explained what occurred and commented on his conversations with Pastor Steve. In light of the situation, the council discussed what needs to be done and took the following action:

1. A motion was made and seconded to form a Scouting Ministry Team at Richland Lutheran Church to support and encourage the Boy Scouts. Russell Warren will serve as lead for this team, which will be under the Spiritual Growth MALT Team. After discussion took place, the motion passed.
2. A motion was made and seconded that the local Boy Scout Council replace the existing scoutmaster. After lengthy discussion, the motion passed. Council consensus was that the Boy Scouts commit to actively pursuing and obtaining a 'chaplain' for the Boy Scouts that meet at Richland Lutheran Church.

Sandy suggested that since we were on the subject of the Boy Scouts, we could respond to Item #5 under New Business and decide whether or not to support their fundraiser request to park a Goodwill trailer in the RLC parking lot to collect donations for one week. A motion was made and seconded to support this request. After discussion took place, the motion passed with the request to use the trailer with Eli Barr's photo and the requirement to follow RLC's COVID-19 requirements of wearing masks and maintaining appropriate social distancing.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. **President's Report** – Sandy reported on the Medical and Dental coverage changes.
2. **Lead Pastor's Report** – Pastor Steve commented on the following:
 - a. Pastor reported the Staffing Review Committee is close to completing their work and expect to provide a report shortly to the council. The committee will be making a recommendation regarding the vacant Associate Pastor's position and how the duties left by this vacancy will be distributed.
 - b. Pastor stated the Contemporary Music Coordinator Search Team met with Susie Nunamaker for a formal interview. Upon completion of the interview, the team

discussed how the interview went and unanimously approved offering Susie the position. A report will be written and submitted to the council in the near future outlining the purpose for the position, the process the team went through and the rationale behind their decision.

- c. Pastor remarked the Historical Wall project should be completed by May, 2021. He asked that anyone with feedback contact him or Jenny Page.
- d. Pastor shared that the 75th Anniversary Committee has been meeting and would like to know whether or not RLC will be able to have this celebration. Discussion was tabled until the December council meeting.
- e. Pastor reported that the Worship MALT discussed the possibility of having Good News Media Ministry (GNMM) merge with the church. A motion was made and seconded to begin discussions with the GNMM board to dissolve their ministry and come under the RLC governing structure and financially for 2022. After discussion took place, the motion passed. Jenifer will share the council's decision at the GNMM Zoom meeting tomorrow night.

3. **Financial Report** - Bill reported Investments are increasing, but the overall numbers for the year remain in the deficit, but he reminded the council that the Payroll Protection Plan funds have not been included in these numbers.

CONSENT AGENDA: A motion was made, seconded and passed approving without discussion the Council meeting minutes from the regular October 13, 2020, meeting.

Old Business:

1. Annual Meeting mail-in ballot results – Sandy stated 172 ballots were returned and a quorum was reached. Everything on the ballots was approved, which included the October 27, 2019, Annual Congregational Meeting minutes, election of new council members, election of new Nominating Committee members and approval of the 2021 budget.
2. Scholarship Committee update – Sandy reported she talked to Todd Maier, who confirmed that \$16,000.00 from earnings is available for disbursement this year and that the committee recommends allocating 25% (\$4,000.00) for up to four (4) scholarships with a maximum of \$1,000.00 per award. Sandy stated the scholarship application will appear in The Preview and on the web site with a request to return any submittals by November 23, 2020. A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommended allocation. After discussing the motion, it passed.

New Business:

1. Audit Committee report – Sandy stated the Executive Committee recommends to the council that a Task Force be formed to review the Audit Committee's report and then make recommendations to the council. A motion was made and seconded approving formation of

the Task Force. After further discussion, the motion passed. Bill was asked to lead the Task Force and he accepted.

2. Emerging Ministries – The Outreach Team recommended the remaining Emerging Ministries funds (\$8,205.10) be distributed as follows: Home of Hope salary for Mattias Haamer - \$1,000.00, International Justice Mission - \$1,000.00 and Good News Media Ministry - \$6,205.10. A motion was made and seconded accepting the team’s recommendation as proposed. After further discussion, the motion passed.
3. Reallocation of unused ministry funds – This was tabled for future discussion.
4. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services change – the Worship MALT recommended there be two worship services on Christmas Eve day, one at 4:00 p.m. and another one at 6:00 p.m., and no worship services on Christmas Day. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Worship MALT’s recommendation. Fred wondered if there would be enough time between services on Christmas Eve day to sanitize the church. After discussing the issue, those present suggested the second service begin at 7:00 p.m. A motion was made to amend the initial motion to change the time from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. With no further discussion, the motion to amend was approved and the initial motion passed.
5. Council/staff retreat for 2021 – due to the ongoing pandemic restrictions, it was suggested the actual retreat be put on hold, but a ‘social’ Zoom meeting take place sometime in January so council members can get to know each other better.
6. RLC Foundation Board candidates – This was tabled for discussion at the December council meeting. Those present were asked to keep this in prayer.
7. Membership Roster – Sandy proposed the review of the membership roster be deferred for 2020 due to the COVID-19 restrictions. A motion was made and seconded approving this proposal. With no further discussion, the motion passed.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Devotions for the December 8th council meeting – Bill
2. Preview article – Val for November and Bill for December
3. November MALT meetings via Zoom: Worship TBD at 11:30 a.m.; Spiritual Growth on Monday, November 23rd at 5:00 p.m.; Christian Service on Tuesday, November 24th at 5:30 p.m. and Biblical Stewardship on Monday, November 23rd at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURN: Sandy adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m. and Val closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Council Secretary Janet R. Budzeck