

RICHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES

February 9, 2021

**Members Present:** Pastor Steve Ernst, Sandy Steele, Joel Sorensen, Bill Peterson, Valerie Silva, Kristen Imhoff, Jan Leitz, Jeanne Dillner, Fred Kremmer and Diane Bonin.

**Visitor:** Jim Honeyman

**Opening:** The regular monthly meeting of the Richland Lutheran Church Congregation Council was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 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 Joel.

**Visitor Comments:** Jim Honeyman, who serves on the RLC COVID-19 Safety Response Team, discussed looking into purchase of an HVAC system unit with UVC light to clean the air. The council gave permission to the team to look further into this possibility for RLC, including obtaining 2-3 bids.

**Staff Reports:**

1. **President's Report:** Sandy reported there was no new information to report on this month.
2. **Lead Pastor's Report:** Pastor Steve remarked on his reports-
  - Noted that the nominating committee has been activated and Todd Maier will lead the nominating committee. Pastor Steve and Sandy will conduct an orientation for the committee on February 18.
  - Scholarship Policy-Steve requested a period of prayer and discernment by Council over the future of this policy prior to review later this year.
  - Discussed Middle School group attendance being poor and concerning factors and Pastor Sam reaching out to those who live alone who may need a contact due to isolation due to COVID.
  - Year-end report for 2020 is available.
3. **Financial Report:** Bill remarked on the following-
  - **Revised Income Statement-Budget vs. Actual Report-** ordinary income \$74,000 for January, budgeted \$64,500, expenses were less than budgeted amount. Our PPP Loan (\$103,369.11) has been forgiven by the Small Business Administration. This is additional income reflected in our updated January 2021 Balance sheet. Note on page 2, \$58,000-salaries and benefits, budgeted more than spent due to a reduction in Federal taxes through the COVID Relief Act. We have not heard about the \$10,000 EIDL COVID-related assistance forgiveness yet and Lisa is following up with GESA about.
  - **Revised Balance Sheet-**shows where we are vs. where we were one year ago. The differential is due to getting rid of the houses. The Piton Wealth-

Fidelity Account has grown by 12.3% for the year, and retreat center investment has grown to \$132,649.28.

### **Consent Agenda:**

A motion was made to accept the consent agenda items without discussion by Fred and seconded by Joel. The following items were passed by vote:

1. Approve regular Council Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2021
2. Approve Sam Geyer as member of 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee
3. Approve Norene Erlandson as member of the Scholarship Committee for a three-year term (2021-2023)
4. Approve Jeanne Dillner as the Staff Compensation Committee Chairperson
5. Approve Jeff Pilger as member of the Staff Compensation Committee for a two-year term (2021-2022)
6. Approve Lent worship services to be moved from the traditional Thursday evenings to Wednesday evenings.

### **Old Business:**

1. **Audit Committee Task Force Recommendations**-Bill reported that all recommendations were accepted and will be implemented except for reducing required signatures on checks from double to single. Double signatures will continue to be required. A report will be written as to the recommendations and presented to the council next month for approval.

### **New Business:**

1. **Discuss/Approve Facilities Strategic Planning Implementation Team Charter**- this item is being moved to March meeting agenda.
2. **Recognize Pastor Steve Ernst's use of his DMin in the course of his work at RLC as his intellectual property to be used by him without restriction**-clarification was given, a motion was made by Jeanne and seconded by Kristen and approved by council.
3. **Identify candidate for Audit Committee to replace Rich Olsen**-Rich Olsen is requesting to be replaced and will continue to serve until his replacement is named. This is a three-year term with two years remaining (2021-2022). Jeanne will contact a possible candidate-Elaine Hogan.
4. **Identify candidates for Finance Committee (2)**-Bill described what the committee does, and noted they are currently looking at the personal information being gathered. The committee meets bi-monthly. Bill will ask two possible candidates-John Umbarger and Valerie Bettinson. Jan will ask Erlan Leitz.
5. **Policy Review Process and Schedule**-the RLC Policy Review Guidance (Policy Review Process and Policy Review Form) developed by Pastor Steve was reviewed by the council and clarified. A motion was made by Joel, and seconded by Kristen, and approved. The schedule was discussed with the first policy

reviews due by our next meeting 3/9. Sandy noted that she paired the council members working together on MALT groups and emphasized the need to consult the appropriate MALT during the review process.

**Information Items:**

1. Devotions – Bill Peterson March 9
2. Preview – Joel Sorensen February 15; Bill Peterson March 15
3. Policy Review March 9 – Adjacent Properties, Benevolence, Christian Education Scholarship, Church Staff Employment, Common Consent Agenda
4. Activate Nominating Committee February 2021 – Ld. Pastor & President
5. Activate Staff Compensation Committee February 2021 – President
6. Activate Audit Committee February 2021 – President
7. February MALT Meetings: Worship 2/25 @ 11:30a; Spiritual Growth 2/25 @ 9:00a; Christian Services 2/23 @ 5:30p; Biblical Stewardship 2/22 @ 1:30p

**Adjourn:**

The meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Council Secretary Diane K. Hahm Bonin