

**RICHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES  
January 12, 2021**

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

**Absent:** Fred Kremmer

**Opening:** The regular monthly meeting of the Richland Lutheran Church Congregation Council was held on Tuesday, January 12, 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 Diane.

**Staff Reports:**

1. **President's Report-** Sandy reported on the RLC Foundation Board. The By-Laws call for 6-10 members on the board, and there are currently 8 with 3 members' terms expiring, as well as an advisor on the board who has recently resigned. A summary of the interview conducted recommends that the ideal number of 7 candidates on the board. The recommendation is to fill two of the vacancies, and two candidates have accepted--Ginnette Ernst and Laura Palmblad.
2. **Lead Pastor's Report-**Pastor Steve remarked on his reports:
  - The Ministry Plan Performance Report as to accomplishments has not been written due to unusual year with pandemic. This information will be included in the year-end report for February's meeting.
  - 2020 Annual Urgency Assistance Report-has been written and was reviewed.
  - Council's introductory orientation videos being developed. Positive feedback was received as to videos produced.
  - Lenten worship recommendation to change from our traditional Thursday schedule to Wednesday if Worship MALT agrees to change for 2021.
  - Response by legal as to possible basketball hoop in parking lot. Fred will contact person who inquired about the hoop.
1. **Financial Report-** - Bill explained the 2020 Income Statement Budget vs, Actual report. For the year, our Income was \$880,447.00 based on a budget of \$901,036.00 and Expenses of \$902,853 which shows a loss of \$22,406.00. The Balance Sheet for the Church (cash basis) shows a deficit of \$183,780.36 as the removal of the homes (adjacent properties) and the cost of removal came to \$253,731.01. The Piton account (savings) grew \$80,208.23 which helped offset the loss of adjacent properties. The COVID assistance PPP and EIDL Grant/Loans once forgiven will further offset the loss as the \$113,467.50 will become income/equity. Right now, the COVID-19 Assistance funds are listed as a liability not asset. We are awaiting the forgiveness letter from the Small Business Administration. RLC penned a letter to GESA thanking them for PPP Loan. Jeanne asked Bill about the possibility of a reconciliation report which may be helpful. Bill will provide that once the forgiveness letter is received.

**Consent Agenda:**

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

1. Approve regular Council Meeting Minutes - December 8, 2020
2. Approve hiring Sam Geyer as regular, part time Visitation Pastor effective January 1, 2021
3. Approve job description for Music Coordinator
4. Approve Pete Newton as member of RLC Staff Compensation Committee for two-year term (2021-2022)
5. Approve Ken Meek as member of Audit Committee (2021-2023)

6. Approve RLC Foundation Board Member Nominees: Ginnette Ernst and Laurel Palmlad for three-year terms (2021-2023)
7. Approve decommission of Adjacent Properties Ministry Team – Project Complete
8. Approve Annual Congregation Meeting for October 31, 2021 @ 12:00 p.m.
9. Approve 2021 fundraising activities for: Holy Jakob Church at Easter and Christmas; Estonia EMMN 2021 Fundraiser Letters; GNMM Antique Sale, Arts and Craft Sale, and Yard Sale; Operation Christmas Child; Vacation Bible School; Boy Scouts Christmas Wreath Fundraiser; Lodge Grass Mission Trip Fundraiser Letters

### **Old Business:**

#### **1. Scholarship Committee Final Report Highlights**

- a. Possible fundraising efforts for Kelly's education pending Council support and
- b. Approve 2021 Scholarships Fundraiser  
Kelly was the sole recipient of the 2020 scholarship for her seminary studies. The scholarship committee asked about plans for fundraising efforts for Kelly's education and asked the Council to approve a 2021 fund raiser for this purpose. No plans or action were taken by the Council at this time. Discussion ensued on developing a policy as to assisting staff for further educational opportunities. Further discussion on this topic will be added as new business.
- c. Revisit the narrow scope of the current Scholarship Policy  
The scholarship Committee expressed their concern for the narrow scope of the policy. Lengthy discussion ensued during which it was stated that the policy has been revised several times over the years with the current version reflecting more closely RLC's vision and mission. Sandy pointed out that the policy will be reviewed this year so further discussion and any necessary changes can be made at that time.

#### **2. Identify committee member candidates for:**

- a. Scholarship Committee (1)  
Diane reported that the first candidate approached has declined and that she is in contact with April Payne to determine if she is willing to accept the position.
- b. Staff Compensation Committee (1-2)  
This committee reviews salaries and benefits and gives recommendations to the Council. Pete Newton has been confirmed for this committee, but another candidate is needed. Possible names were Carl Imhoff-Kristen will ask, and Jeff Pilger- as an alternate.

### **New Business:**

#### **1. Pre-75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mini Celebrations**

Discussion as to if 75<sup>th</sup> celebration is viable this year due to pandemic. Kristen will contact Jenny Page who is committee liaison and discuss possibility of mini celebrations throughout year as an alternate to a gathering. It was suggested that by the end of the quarter we should be able to determine if a gathering is possible in 2021. Another suggestion was to postpone the celebration until RLC's 80th year.

### **Information Items:**

1. Devotions – Joel Sorensen February 9
2. Preview – Diane Bonin January 15; Joel Sorensen February 15
3. Activate Nominating Committee February 2021 – Ld. Pastor & President
4. January MALT Meetings: Worship 1/28 @ 11:30a; Spiritual Growth 1/25 @ 5:00p; Christian Services 1/26 @ 5:30p; Biblical Stewardship 1/25 @ 4:00p

Additional comments were offered and prayer lead by Pastor Ernst.

### **Adjourn:**

Sandy closed with prayer, and meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Council Secretary Diane K. Hahm Bonin