

RICHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES
September 8, 2020

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

Absent: Kiane Lesser

Guest: Kathy Umbarger

Opening: The regular monthly meeting of the Richland Lutheran Church Congregation Council was held on Tuesday, September 8, 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 Jenifer. No comments were shared from the guest.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. **President's Report** – Sandy stated demolition of the house located at 1516-1518 Stevens has been completed and the house at 1517 Kimball is nearing completion. She reminded council members of the fall kick-off set for this coming Sunday, September 13th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and encouraged them to participate.
2. **Lead Pastor's Report** – Pastor Steve remarked he will provide a written report next week as he was on vacation. He did comment on the following:
 - a. Pastor Geyer has begun visiting church members,
 - b. Pastor met with the prayer and visitation teams and Pastor Geyer to discuss having a group of people led by a deacon be given a list of church members to be in contact with on a regular basis such as the 'In Touch' program the church was involved in several years ago,
 - c. the Search team will be meeting this coming Monday to look at the Contemporary Music Coordinator job description,
 - d. Pastor Steve will meet for the second time with the Staffing Review committee to talk about the current staffing and what is best for the congregation,
 - e. the COVID-19 team will be meeting on Thursday
 - f. the fall kick-off this coming Sunday, September 13th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 - g. Pastor expressed appreciation for the time off he enjoyed last week and asked for prayers his vertigo will soon go away.
3. **Financial Report** - Bill reported the church's Piton investment has come back and is 6% above our initial investment. He stated there have been losses in the net income, but the church's financial status is positive heading into October.

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

1. Council meeting minutes from the regular August 11, 2020, meeting
2. Special council meeting minutes from the September 1, 2020, meeting
3. activation of the Staffing Review Committee to discuss Richland Lutheran's future staffing needs
4. agenda for the annual Congregational meeting
5. Erlan Leitz for membership on the Shalom Ecumenical Center Board to complete the vacated 3-year term (2018-2020) and serve a new 3-year term (2021-2023)
6. members for the Contemporary Music Coordinator Search Team – Susie McKinney, Shane Benjamson, Janet Budzeck and Mike Bettinson

Old Business:

1. Discuss and approve the 2021 Ministry Plan - a motion was made and seconded to approve this plan. After some discussion, the motion passed.
2. Identify three candidates for the Nominating Committee – council member's previously contacted individuals to gauge their possible interest in being on this committee. A motion was made and seconded approving Val Bettinson, Lori Hogan and Rick Budzeck to serve. With no further discussion, the motion passed. Sandy will forward a copy of the committee handbook to these individuals.
3. Postpone Special Congregation meeting via Webinar to vote on distribution of the Retreat Center funds – Sandy commented on the difficulties and confusion resulting from the 'dry run' webinar held last week and suggested this meeting be postponed to coincide with the regular congregational meeting. A motion was made and seconded approving this suggestion. After additional discussion, the motion passed.

New Business:

1. Discuss and approve 3rd Quarter benevolences in the amount of \$21,606.80 to the following:
 - a. Lutherhaven - \$3,000.00
 - b. Jews for Jesus - \$2,000.00
 - c. Seminary Debt Relief - \$3000.00
 - d. LCMC Lutheran Disaster Assistance Fund - \$5,000.00
 - e. Institute of Lutheran Theology - \$3,000.00
 - f. The Masters Institute - \$2,000.00
 - g. Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries - \$2,500.00
 - h. Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots, Inc. (LAMP) - \$1,106.80

A motion was made and seconded to approve the above listed benevolences. After discussion took place, the motion passed. Next month's Preview will include this list of benevolences, but also a description of the entities receiving the funds.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Devotions for the October 13th council meeting – Kiane
2. Preview article – Jenifer for September and Kiane for October
3. Annual Congregational meeting – October 25, 2020, beginning at 12:30 p.m.
4. September MALT meetings via Zoom: Worship on Thursday, September 24th at 11:30 a.m.; Spiritual Growth on Monday, September 28th at 5:00 p.m.; Christian Service on Tuesday, September 22nd at 5:00 p.m. and Biblical Stewardship on Monday, September 28th at 4:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

An Executive Session was called at 8:24 p.m. to discuss the following:

1. Congregation and staff care -
Council members shared their difficulties and concerns with regard to the continuing pandemic quarantine restrictions and shared suggestions on how to reach members of the congregation to help them through this.
2. Hiring of Interim Visitation Pastor -
A motion was made and seconded to approve hiring Pastor Sam Geyer to fulfill this position to the end of this year. After discussion took place, the motion passed.

The Executive Session closed at 9:04 p.m.

ADJOURN:

Valerie closed with prayer, after which Sandy adjourned the Zoom meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Council Secretary Janet R. Budzeck