

Peace Lutheran Council Minutes February 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Drew at 7 p.m. on February 15, 2018. Present were Diane Lechman, Michelle Ward, Jen Demulling, Pastor Melissa Carmack, Laureen Williams, Drew Ekstrom, and Pete Peterson. We began by reading the Identity and Mission Statement, followed by devos from Drew and God Sightings.

MMSP to appoint Craig Brunclik (representing Stewardship) and Maria Gjovig (representing Youth) as Council members to fill 2 of the 3 existing vacancies. Craig was in attendance.

The request to authorize online access by Pete to our checking account was tabled, since the process he'd planned to implement is being done by Pat.

Pete reported that two members of the audit committee are being carried over from last year's committee. Pete is waiting for a call back from a prospect for the third slot, and requests that we conduct an e-mail vote to approve all three when the third willing member is identified.

Pastor Melissa reported that Lenten worship schedule is in place. Speakers from community organizations and from ELCA entities will alternate weeks. She also reported that new members orientation will be held Sunday 4/8 between services. Every Ministry is requested to send a representative to explain what each ministry does. It was also requested that Time and Talent surveys be given to each new member. Installation is planned for Sunday 4/15.

MMSP to approve Secretary's reports from 1/18/18 Council meeting and 1/28 Congregational meeting. It was requested that 1/28 minutes be published in the March Tidings.

MMSP to approve Treasurer's report with explanations of expenditures from savings account.

Ministry Reports:

LIFE & GROWTH: Ronda is organizing a ministry to New Moms, with L&G support and assistance. One aspect of this project is preparing freezer meals for busy new moms. Freezer meal ministry is also envisioned to serve sick and/or mourning members. This project is in its infancy but has potential to serve many who are in tough times.

OUTREACH: Looking forward to a VERY busy April, including Clothing Share, Community Meal, Feed My Starving Children. Also talked about Garage Sale—Outreach is willing to help/pass along the benefit of their experience, but anticipate that the organization who will use the proceeds will supply the workers. Would this be the Jamaica trip participants? Or Youth trip participants? MMSP to approve conducting a garage sale in early summer, with proceeds to be split between Jamaica and youth trip participants. Split proportions to be determined by those two groups.

WORSHIP: As submitted. Attendance at Easter Sunrise service has been very small, so Worship Ministry would like to not schedule one this year. MMSP to approve scheduling 0830 and 1045 services only.

CALL COMMITTEE: They are currently actively considering one candidate, who has been interviewed.

Pastor Melissa passed along a question from Stephanie regarding Daycare exploratory efforts. Given mixed reactions after the Congregational Meeting presentation, Stephanie would like guidance from the Council on whether to continue or suspend the efforts of the people who've been working on the effort. Several committee members have volunteered to help, and they are at the point where financing options need to be considered and undertaken so that a Director can be secured to take exploration to the next steps. Much discussion ensued; cons include the work load of the staff pending call of another pastor, and the need to include that new pastor in the process. Pros include an urgent need for daycare services, and the fear that potential and/or current committee members may lose interest if delays occur. MMSP to authorize continuing these efforts.

NEW BUSINESS: Much discussion about the inadequacy of our accounting system. Many problems, including inefficient/nonexistent use of accounting software, and significant pay disclosure and reporting problems. Consensus was that changes need to be made, sooner rather than later, especially in the payroll process. Some discussion about total integration of all accounting vs starting with payroll and adding other functions more slowly. Pete will get costs and info for several options from several vendors and e-mail info to members before the March Council meeting. Consensus was that changes need to begin ASAP. Some discussion about establishing a Finance Committee to oversee these matters and other financial concerns. This was considered to be a good topic for discussion at our Retreat.

LED light replacements: Some confusion about e-mailed request from Property Ministry. Confusion about the necessity of urgent action was expressed. MMSP to approve their request to replace exit lights and signs as necessary, with funds to come from inspections budget category, with assumption that remaining budgeted funds will be sufficient to conduct necessary inspections.

Discussion of plans for Council Retreat to be held March 24 at Norma's apartment complex party room. Pastor Melissa plans to conduct a Strength Finders or other personality inventory for all Council Members. Other agenda items will include whether to establish a Finance Committee, whether to seek professional accounting help, and whether to use our Pastoral Housing Fund for other purposes or to invest it in a more lucrative way. All Ministries are asked to bring any potential topics for discussion to the 3/15 Council meeting. Potluck signup sheet was passed around.

MMSP to adjourn, and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pete Peterson

Council Secretary