

KRLC Council
Special Meeting
1/5/25

Present: Helene Hedlund, Kay Bloom, Jan Swanson, David Grong, Craig Whiting, Randi Alreck, Nancy Dent, Ed Lee, Pastor Susan
Absent: Vicki Gorman, LeAllan Estrem

President Helene Hedlund opened a Special Meeting for the Council at 10:20 am to discuss the results of the **Stewardship Committee**.

David Grong reviewed the Stewardship Committee report, including a summary of all potential giving, while discussing all funds available at present. **Two options** were sent to the Council by the Stewardship Committee, they are as noted:

- 1) **Not to donate any monies.**
- 2) **Share some of our assets.**

A Motion was made, seconded, and passed with the following votes, 8 in favor, 1 opposed.

The Stewardship Committee will release the following funds from KRLC assets. \$1,000 for CHUM, \$1,500 for LSS, \$1,500 for Bethany Crisis Center and \$75 to be determined.

President Helene Hedlund discussed the idea for adding a Youth Representative to the KRLC Council. This would be a one year term for a High School age person. A Mentor would be needed. Our Constitution and By-Laws support this idea, it would be possible to add a Student Representative. The following notes from an email are added below:

The Council would like to provide an opportunity for interested 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade youth to be part of the church council. It would be an opportunity for confirmed youth to see how church leadership functions. All details haven't been worked out yet but I have listed some info below (in no particular order)

1. This position would be in addition to ... not in place of current council positions.
2. The position would be appointed by the council rather than elected.
3. A current council member would be appointed as a mentor to answer questions as they arise.

4. The appointment would be for one year.
5. Additional details to be determined.

President Helene Hedlund shared the following letter by Pastor Susan:

January 5, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing to let you know of my decision to retire from active ordained ministry as of June 1, 2025. Serving in this congregation has been the highlight of my nearly 39 years of ministry, and I am so profoundly grateful for what we have done together, guided by God's Spirit, to bless our neighbors and glorify our Lord. The Knife River congregation is a vibrant and warm congregation that has effectively lived out the Gospel for so many decades and will continue to do so into the future! It has been a joy to serve among you! There is certainly sadness in this transition for me, but also I look forward to a new chapter in my life. Likewise, while there may be sadness in the congregation at this change, there will also be exciting opportunities for visioning and moving forward in the most impactful ways possible. Rest assured that our Northeastern Minnesota Synod will guide the congregation through every step of this journey, and that God is in the mix to bring about blessings.

Respectfully and with love,

Pastor Susan Berge

After our tears were cleared and we moved through our grief there was a discussion of the Call Process. **Deacon Susan Williams from Mora** working with the **ELCA Synod** will be arriving in late May to work with the KRLC Council and directing how the Call Process will proceed. **Five members from the Congregation will be elected** by the Congregation. Part of this process will be **how to support Pastor Susan** as she retires and journeys into her next phase of life. PS and PB will no longer be members of KRLC after her retirement. The ELCA process prohibits outgoing Pastors to remain members.

After an Interim is appointed the call process will take 3-6 months. Deacon Susan Williams will continue to be involved as well. There will also be a Congregation Self Assessment to help determine our unique needs as a congregation. Time will be needed to care for grief and loss issues as we say good-bye to our well loved Pastor Susan. And of course, plan a party.

The KRCL Council will also need to do an "Exit Interview" for Pastor Susan.

A confirmed meeting with Deacon Susan Williams has been scheduled for May 22 at 3 PM.

The meeting closed with a prayer at 11:45 am,

Respectfully,

Kay Bloom
Recording Secretary
1/5/25

Addition:

Please note the correct wording for the December 15, 2024 Minutes for the Constitution and By-Laws change needed for the Endowment Committee.

The following amendment to the KRLC constitution **C5.05.** will be voted on at the annual meeting held on February 9, 2025.

This amendment, **C5.05.** (*From the ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations 08-2022*) was submitted by the KRLC Endowment Committee, approved by the KRLC congregation council, and recommended for adoption.

C5.05. This congregation shall have a mission endowment fund that will operate as specified in this congregation's bylaws and continuing resolutions. The purpose of the mission endowment fund is to provide for mission work beyond the operational budget of this congregation.

NOTE:

Since **C5.05.** is included in the ELCA model constitution for congregations, adoption requires only a simple majority vote at a congregational meeting.

BACKGROUND:

- When the Knife River Lutheran Church Endowment Fund was originally established, there was no constitutional provision for a congregational endowment fund, so it was established by special resolution.

- Since then, the ELCA has added that provision to its model constitution for congregations.

- Including this provision in the KRLC constitution will assist the Endowment Committee in its work to revise and simplify the Bylaws governing the endowment fund.

Philip Berge
Endowment Committee Chair