

PEACE LUTHERAN COUNCIL MEETING  
March 15, 2020 Minutes

Present: Nicole Kovar, Dallas Wynne, Drew Ekstrom, Linda Moore, Kelly Kneath, Maria Gjovig, Larry Carlson, Michele Merritt, Craig Bruncelik, Melissa Carmack

Dallas opened with devotion.

Where do we go from here?

Larry: His son is active in his church in MN and they cancelled their church. Larry is concerned but also does not agree with the mandatory closings.

Melissa: Her Facebook ministry groups are closing their churches. There are lots of video services being made available. She believes there are lots we CAN do.

Linda: Is ready to make a firm decision on Peace's policy for the Corona Virus.

Drew: Reported that bank will help with Peace finances and Andrea and bank rep. will meet to discuss situation. Drew wants to be careful with verbiage on closings. Prefers to use "suspend" instead of "shutting down" etc. Even if we did choose to stay open for Sunday services, the older members who are the most at-risk will be the first through the door. Dangerous. He agrees to suspend Sunday Services.

Linda made motion to suspend all on-site activities and services for Peace Lutheran, including funerals through April 3rd, 2020. WE WILL RECONVENE ON March 31st at 7:00 p.m. to discuss Palm Sunday service.

Kelly seconded motion. Vote approved unanimously.

Our Peace choir will also be suspended.

Trial run for phone conference call initiated by Drew! Need to work out the kinks and try Monday evening at 7:00 p.m.

Cleaning the church: Church is being cleaned and sanitized after Sunday services. Custodian is not utilizing all designated hours. This is a time when deep cleaning can be done to make use of those unused hours. Creating a list for custodian was suggested. Custodian will also be off for a week; someone will be coming in during that time to replace her.

Peace staff: working from home as much as they can. Dallas suggested communicating this change should happen through signage on doors, messages on voice mail, updates on our website etc. Need to communicate that we are still AVAILABLE despite being off-site.

How do we maintain regular services of the church?

Google docs can be used for delivering meals to shut-ins.

Melissa will call other churches to see if they'd be open to collectively work together to share the workload...

Pastor Melissa and Dallas will work on a pre-recorded Sunday service to put on Youtube for members of the congregation.

Drew: Should we contact the synod to see what they recommend in times like this? Is it up to each individual church? Default to best practices?

What about Giving?

It's been up in the last two months.

Low Attendance and giving aren't always correlated.

Daycare: Supervisor asked Melissa if we could lower the rent for a year because they don't see themselves where they want to be financially if we stay on the same payment schedule. Linda suggested that we could agree to split the difference of what they're asking.

Also, could we do anything else to support them other than money?

Ronda Haley is new to council.

Maria made motion to accept Ronda to council. Linda seconded it. All approved. Welcome Ronda!

Dallas: Do we want a treasurer on council? Their role has typically been as a liaison between finance committee and council, finance committee members holding the brunt of the responsibility.

What about a Cemetery committee? It's already part of the Property Committee and basically church secretary is handling it. We'd need 3-5 people on the committee and come up with a job description.

Adjourned at 1:55 pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Michele Merritt  
Council Secretary