

LUTHER MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A community committed to making Christ's disciples, dedicated to worship, study, and prayer while serving all in need. We are a Reconciling in Christ Congregation.
Meeting, December 61, 2020 (Zoom format)*

Fred Rencsok called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

In attendance: Jay Crone, John Hess, Andy Hansbrough, Carolyn Howard, Seth Knight, Alyssa Kaplan – campus minister, Mara Knott, Tim Larson, Fred Rencsok, Pastor Monica Weber, Ed Vigen, Lois Voss, and Leah Wechtaluk-McFarren Newly elected members attending Elaine Belay, Teresa Cassell, Carolyn Howard (already serving a partial year), and Karl Pedersen. Carol Reynolds rejoins the Council for a final year of service in 2021

- 1) Devotions – Leah shared a sermon by Nadia Bolz-Weber with a focus on how the conversion of anxiety to hope resides in Jesus Christ. All things become footnotes when we focus on the message of God's love revealed in Jesus.
- 2) Adoption of the Agenda – Lois noted addition of the proposal from Christ Lutheran Church under new business. Fred moved adoption of the revised agenda; seconded by John motion passed.
- 3) Minutes- In the minutes from November 1, Carolyn noted unnecessary spaces in item 5.f. With no other changes, Fred moved approval of the revised minutes; Mara seconded; motion passed. For minutes of the congregational meeting, Mara noted corrections for the spelling of Teresa Cassell's name. Carolyn requested expansion of the minutes regarding questions about actual expenses for the current year and summary of expenses for the renovation of the fellowship hall and the Capital Campaign. John will provide revisions will at the January meeting. Fred tabled the approval of minutes for the congregational meeting.
- 4) Old Business
 - a) Financial report –
 - i) In October we spent essentially \$7,000 more than income received.
 - ii) For expenses in November, Mara reported payments to benevolence commitments from the general fund with understanding that the Hudgins bequest is available should that be needed by the end of the year.
 - iii) Payments were distributed as noted in the Report of the Social Ministry Committee included in the packet.
 - iv) Leah moved to approve recommendation of the Committee on Finance to pay additional commitments of approximately \$9,000 by the end of the year; John seconded; motion passed.
 - v) Periodic payments for benevolence commitments will be considered by the Committee on Social Ministry for the meeting in February.
 - b) COVID-19 Task Force – No changes on current recommendations. No schedule for in-person worship as the spread of the disease continues.
 - c) Fellowship Hall Renovation –
 - i) Kathy indicated that the end of the project is in sight. AV installation remains
 - ii) Help will be needed to return furniture when we receive the approved occupancy permit.
 - iii) Early in 2021, we should plan tours in some format to inform members about the renovated spaces. Ed suggested we include a formal blessing/dedication.

- iv) John indicated that we have encumbered funds at the upper limit for the project, \$100,000. We need to consider from where we will take the estimated \$20,000 additional cost for the stabilization of the north wall of the building.
- d) Fred moved to reinstate Carol Reynolds as a member of Council for the calendar year 2021; Lois seconded; motion passed.
- e) Seminary Debt Reduction Assistance Program - Andy reported to have a committee organized by the end of the year.
- f) To Our House ministry –
 - i) Leah reviewed the report of the Committee on Social Ministry. To date the program successfully cared for one female and eight male clients.
 - ii) Pastor Monica reported that with the grant of \$800 and \$2500 financial support from LMLC we contributed to costs of the shower trailer of \$4,000/month.]
 - iii) Members of the Well provided laundry service using the laundry facility in the campus center.
 - iv) Ed reported Bull and Bones provided the meal for Thanksgiving at cost and with an estimate for all contributions of food, services, and dollars, Wava Vigen estimated that LMLC provided support of approximately \$5,000. The ministry was successful given very different circumstances.
- 5) New Business
 - a) Fred reminded liaisons to submit the annual report for their committee to Marcia in the church office by January 15. The annual report will be posted on the LMLC website with access to hard copies determined.
 - b) Organization of Council for 2021 – Fred moved Council meet January 10 and nominated Andy-president, Carolyn-vice president, and John-secretary; Pastor Monica seconded; motion passed with one abstention.
 - c) Committee on Mission Endowment – Myra moved that Teresa Cassell and Konrad Kubin be appointed to the committee for an additional year; Ed seconded; motion passed with two abstentions.
 - d) Revisions to the by-laws – Lois Voss offered to chair a committee to review the bylaws and focus on structure of committees/responsibilities. Need to bring the revised by late spring for consideration by the congregation for consideration in early fall to vote for approval at the November meeting of the congregation. Pastor Monica moved that we form a committee, with Lois as chairperson, to review/revise the by-laws of LMLC; Kathy seconded; motion passed unanimously
- 6) Update for Capital Campaign – Ed requested to summarize the status of the Capital Campaign including pledges, funds received, projects completed, expenses to date and that the Capital Campaign continues to accept contributions toward the completion of additional projects. Kathy will provide a summary of the history and Marcia will summarize financial details of the Campaign for the annual report.
- 7) Proposal for shared ministry with Christ Radford and Campus Ministry at VT- Vicar Alyssa reviewed background. Members indicated support to consider joint ministry. Pastor Monica moved to meet with Vicar Alyssa, Seth, and the students working on the call process to determine the interest of students in pursuing the proposal from Christ Lutheran Church; Leah seconded; motion passed. Pastor Monica will draft a letter to Christ Lutheran that we will be considering the proposal.
- 8) Reports
 - a) Finance –
 - i) Myra addressed questions related to finances asked by a member (in the packet)
 - (1) Provide a spreadsheet with the income/expenses for the 2020 spending plan.

- (2) Summarize the variety of accounts and resources available.
 - (3) Mara proposed to draft a letter to address these questions and ask Allison to review the content for a communication in the newsletter/email to members.
 - (4) John moved that Mara communicate with Allison to answer her questions and provide similar information to the congregation; Andy seconded; motion passed with one abstention.
 - ii) Mara reported that as of 11/25, with the pledges received to date combined with anticipated non-pledged income, we have approximately 95% of resources needed to fund the spending plan in 2021.
 - b) Mission Endowment – Mara will request input from the congregation about how to distribute approximately \$7000 of endowment income from this year through the newsletter and an email to members.
 - c) Evangelism – Pastor Monica clarified that the \$100 expenditure to Cassell International was a one-time expense for specific work.
 - d) Property - John highlighted from the report of the committee the additional expenses for roof and gutter repairs of approximately \$3000 and that with no objection, the Black Lives Matter banner will hang on the Tom's Creek side of the bell tower.
- 9) Director of Music report received without comment
 - 10) Pastor's report – extreme effort is required at this time of the year. The benefit of extra hours for recording worship and music offerings is worthy. However, the effort is not sustainable and a different strategy may be needed for the Festival of Easter.
 - 11) Campus pastor report -Vicar Alyssa indicated how time requirements are skewed toward more than 25 h/week in this first semester of program development, which may be evened out with lower time requirements in the summer available to a 12-month/half time ministry. Time with The Red Door Ministry, an ecumenical LGBTQ+-affirming community in Radford will be balanced with meetings at the Well and some joint meetings are planned for spring semester. The Tuesday meetings will be on alternate weeks with time shared between the Well and The Red Door Ministry.
 - 12) Andy thanked Pastor Monica and Vicar Alyssa for maintaining vibrant ministry in a difficult and unusual time. Pastor Monica thanked Fred for his leadership as president of Council this year.
 - 13) Fred moved to adjourn the meeting (2:20 p.m.); Ed seconded; motion passed
 - 14) Next Meeting: January 10, 11:30 a.m. Zoom format, leader for devotions to be named.

Submitted by J. Hess, 12/29/2020