

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, May,23, 2020 (Zoom format)

Fred Rencsok called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m.

In attendance: Jay Crone, John Hess, Andy Hansbrough, Seth Knight, Mara Knott, Tim Larson, Kathy Parrott, Fred Rencsok, Carol Reynolds, Pastor Monica Weber, Ed Vigen, Lois Voss, and Leah Wechtaluk McFarren

- 1) Devotions – presented at the end of the meeting
- 2) Adoption of the Agenda - Mara moved adoption of the Agenda as presented; John seconded and the motion passed
- 3) Minutes from April 26/May3 were not included in packet. John indicated some revisions to the edition sent for review. Kathy moved to table adoption of minutes. John seconded; motion passed. John will review the accuracy of the minutes and provide specific changes by email and approval with an online motion and vote prior to the next meeting.
- 4) Old Business
 - a) LMLC COVID-19 Task Force -Lois indicated the task force will include a member from the Committees on Finance and Worship and Music. Lois moved approval of the charter and action plan for a COVID-19 Task Force at LMLC: The task force will support Luther Memorial Lutheran Church's Pastor, staff, Council, congregation Campus Ministry, committees and community during the COVID-19 pandemic by doing the following:
 - * Examining worship, activities, communication, safety and finances
 - * Analyzing the changing work loads of staff and obtaining assistance as needed
 - * Monitoring Recommendations for regathering and submitting a timeline(note: work plan not restated here but included in the council packet)
Carol seconded; motion passed. Seth asked for clarification in the action plan about the autonomy/authority of the task group and how reporting will occur. Details of how the task force will function are in the full report provided in the Council packet. Summaries of weekly meetings will be communicated to the church office. Fred called the question; motion passed, with the understanding that clarification of authority and reporting procedures are more fully explained in the action plan to be reported at the next meeting.
 - b) Fellowship Hall renovation - Kathy updated that the work begins May 27 on the installation of the HVAC systems; no more than two technicians should be in the buildings at any one time over a 2-week period.
Kathy will clarify availability of funds with Pastor Monica. A scope of the project will be discussed with a contractor and designer the week of May 24. Two contractors submitted bids on installation of the AV equipment. Fred indicated time limit for the agenda item. Seth moved to extend the time for the discussion; John seconded; motion passed. To move ahead on the project, which we would like to complete by mid-August, Kathy will submit, by email, the description of the scope of the project that includes an estimated budget and a motion to approve working with specific contractors on the project.
 - c) Von Bora house – Mara reviewed that transitional housing for families is administered by New River Community Action-Family Shelter Program for 3-6 months. Mara serves as

liaison for the church. Recent residents moved and review of the property, routinely done after each change in residents, identified required repairs caused by leaking damage in the bathroom, checking electrical outlets/connections/fixtures, replacement of doors/hardware, and some repair of walls. Costs should be within the accumulated funds from the monthly rental fee paid by the agency. Mara will be more intentional in discussing aspects of this ministry with the Committee on Social Ministry. No action specified

- d) Council meeting – Pastor Monica moved that council meet on the first Sunday of the month at 11:30 a.m.; Andy seconded and motion passed unanimously. This date for meeting will assure availability of financial reports for the previous month.
- e) Logo design – Mara moved to approve use of image #6 from those provided by Cassel, International; John seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The approved logo states, “Reconciling in Christ Congregation” and uses a solid white symbol of the dove/flame unique to the sanctuary

5) New Business

- a) Little Hokie Hangout – Pastor Monica moved to accept the reduction to \$800/month beginning July 1 through June 30. Leah seconded. Following discussion, Jay moved to amend the motion that we delay action until Pastor Monica gets details based on the approved budget from VT, understanding that the program will be operating at 50% enrollment and staff. John seconds; motion to amend passes. Action may be finalized with online communication prior to the next meeting.
- b) Natural gas service. Ed reviewed the information he provided in the Council packet. Pending a final decision from Atmos Energy, LMLC may have no charge for gas supplied since the completion of the water remediation project. Ed moved that Council should thank Marcia for her attention to this line item in the budget and, pending a final decision by Atmos Energy, that \$2000 be distributed, based on available funds at the end of the year, to agencies who care for emergency energy needs in the community, Mara seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- c) Rachel Peterson submitted her resignation as campus minister effective July 7, 2020. John moved acceptance of the resignation with gratitude for Rachel’s effective ministry. Seth seconded; motion passed John will draft a letter expressing thanks to Rachel to be signed by Fred, Seth, and Pastor Monica. Pastor Monica will consider an appropriate gift from LMLC to Rachel.
- d) Communicating the work of the Council to the congregation.
 - i) The revised website will include a link to the minutes of Congregation Council
 - ii) John will provide a summary of actions taken by Council to be published as the “Council Corner” in the monthly newsletter. The initial content will summarize actions beginning in January 2020.
 - iii) As we communicate, Pastor Monica reminded Council members to respect confidentiality and the dignity of persons, to use adult judgement, and establish trustful communication. Fred reminded Council that our meetings are public and that confidential matters need to be considered in Executive Session.
- e) Committee reports
 - i) Finance – Mara understands financial statements for May should be available for our meeting in June.
 - ii) Congregational Care - Carol reported that 36 persons had signed up for the 5K run as Blazing Flames. Registration is open through Tuesday, May 26. Relevant pictures and thoughts will be presented at the Wednesday (May 27) check-in and

vespers. Lois expressed gratitude for the response to the 5K challenge for Pentecost as it reflects a strong commitment to community.

- iii) Property – John stated that the surveillance system is operating satisfactorily and that Danny Knott has observed unexpected use of the building. A quote is needed for installing a video lock on the upper level door. The deck on the campus center has been power washed and Rachel has recruited two students to assist with staining the deck. Scheduling spreading mulch and staining the fence awaits decisions related to phases of reopening the church.
 - iv) Social Ministry – Leah reported the committee met and information will be available at the June meeting.
 - v) Stewardship – Pastor Monica recalled that Bennet Cassel chairs the committee and together they are recruiting members.
 - vi) Campus Ministry – Seth will be communicating with students about the change in leadership.
 - vii) Christian Education – Fred is projecting expected expenses through December
- 6) Pastor's Report – received without comment
 - 7) Director of Music Report – received without comment
 - 8) Council Round Table –
 - a) John thanked Fred for designating times for agenda items. We should value these times as guidelines and not absolute. We want to respect presenter's ability to finalize thoughts before abruptly tabling action or moving to the next item on the agenda.
 - b) We also need to be thoughtful in reviewing staff reports. Time should be designated for their consideration; much effort is presented. We need to affirm accomplishment and intentionally explore how best to support staff based on these reports.
 - 9) Devotion – Pastor Monica drew attention to the central role of spiritual reflection and prayer in a meeting of Council. Seth shared his thoughts on Matthew 16:18 - Jesus commissioning of Peter. He reminded us that, throughout the Biblical narrative, leaders are human – saints and sinners. We are the best God has to accomplish His work.
 - 10) Next meeting of Council, June 7, 11:30 a.m. Devotions led by Carol Reynolds
 - 11) Fred moved to adjourn the meeting and invited Pastor Monica to pray.

Actions completed on a tabled and an amended motion, since adjournment of the meeting.

- 1 Through email communication clarified changes to the minutes, John moved take from the table the motion to adopt the revised minutes of the meeting of April 26/May 3 and to approve these minutes; seconded by Leah. On May 28, Fred indicated motion passed
- 2 Pastor Monica provided feedback from Virginia Tech by email as requested. Pastor Monica moved to amend the Little Hokie Hangout lease charges to \$800/month for 1 year -July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Leah seconded; Fred indicated on June 2 the motion passed.

Submitted with additions and corrections
John Hess, Secretary, June 2, 2020