

## 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 of Congregation Council

August 2, 2020 (Zoom format)

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

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

- 1) Kathy shared thoughts from Nadia Bolz-Weber's book, *Accidental Saints*. Knowing the impact of God's love, particularly in times of transition.
- 2) John moved adoption of the agenda; Lois seconded: motion passed.
- 3) John moved adoption of the minutes for the called meeting of Council, July 24; Andy seconded. Leah moved to amend changing "our error" (item 3)a) to "an error"; Kathy seconded. The amendment passed and the motion to adopt the minutes passed.
- 4) Brown Insurance Statement of Values appended to the July 5 minutes.
- 5) Mara presented the financial report.
  - a) Income from June was encouraging and expenses thus far in July seem not to exceed income.
  - b) Request conveners of committee review expenses carefully each month to be sure that actions are recorded properly and track total spending for the year.
  - c) Further adjustments to the budget include:
    - i) Reduction in Benevolence: eliminating the God Parents in Tanzania support for 2021 – a reduction of \$2,000
    - ii) The "in arrears" charge (\$2,900) for natural gas was received, expense was not forgiven. For 2020, allocation for natural gas reduced from \$6,000 to \$3,500.
    - iii) Change in balance between power expenses for electricity and gas needs attention but specific adjustments will require some experience with building use. Current electricity expense mid-year is 59% of budget rather than 50% and may require some increase.

Leah moved to extend the time needed to discuss the financial report; Kathy seconded; motion passed.

  - iv) Reduce expenses
    - (1) Campus Ministry retreats \$3,000 to \$1,000
    - (2) Christian Education \$3,500 to \$2,000
  - v) No proposal to use rainy day funds to meet expenses at this time.

Seth moved to table recommendations on the budget with guidance to prepare a revised budget that will end the year in the 'black' at the end of the year; Kathy seconded. A lengthy discussion affirmed the work and intention of the Committee on Finance followed. John called the question; the motion failed with one yes vote.

  - vi) The committee will work to provide an updated, revised budget.
  - d) AV installation/Capital Campaign projects. HVAC is in the final stages – training with use of new thermostats. Building permit for the renovation for the fellowship hall
- 6) Fees for funerals and weddings stand as reported in the previous meeting.
- 7) Laundry installation – building permit approved, construction begins when the plumber is available. Seth will provide Committee on Finance and John a copy of the estimate. Funding for this project requires additional evaluation.

- 8) Council membership- Carol Reynolds has resigned from Council. A nominee is needed for the remainder of the year. Following discussion of constitutional requirements and options, Kathy moved to table action on replacing a member of Council until the next meeting, Leah seconded. Motion passed with one no vote.
- 9) COVID-19 task force: Lois requested that we avoid using “reopening” for building use. A better descriptor is “restricted opening” that requires use with specified guidelines. Pastor Monica moved adoption of the restricted use policy provided by the COVID-19 Task Force (provided in the council packet); Seth seconded. Sign in protocols and security system will assure who is using the building; no groups are seeking building use at this time. Fred’s requested friendly amendment of the guidelines to include phone or mail contact be added to the sign in sheet to assist with follow-up contacts was accepted. The motion passed as amended.  
Following discussion, Lois moved that the date for establishing restricted use of LMLC facilities will be determined, pending approval by the Congregation Council at the October 4 meeting; Pastor Monica seconded; motion passed.
- 10) Pastor Monica moved that she and Marcia review, by the September meeting of Council, active membership role using the records of attendance and giving; Leah seconded; motion passed. Fred noted that this membership will be used to determine the necessary quorum for the annual meeting in November.
- 11) Spending plan – Marcia reviewed the timeline for preparation Council approval is needed by November 1. Committee information needed by the finance committee by mid-September with an initial draft for the October 4 meeting.
- 12) Fall meeting – Lois indicated a need for constitutional changes be available for the meeting in September 6
  - a) Pastor Monica moved to table any constitution and bylaw changes that address the composition of Congregation Council until next year; Andy seconded; motion passed with one opposed.
  - b) Lois moved getting compliance changes for the constitution to Council with the help of Andy and John by the meeting on September 6; seconded by Pastor Monica; motion passed with one abstention.  
Mara moved to extend the time of the meeting for 30 min; Fred seconded; motion passed
  - c) Quorum and paper ballot consideration. Pastor Monica moved to hold the congregation meeting via Zoom format on November 15 and that we mail paper ballots and the spending plan for 2021 two weeks prior; Andy seconded. Following discussion of returning mailed ballots or an electronic return format, Pastor Monica moved to amend the motion that she will provide recommendations how we will conduct the vote at the September meeting; motion passed.
- 13) AV position – Pastor Monica reviewed the proposal and opportunity to pay for the position from discretionary endowment funding. John moved approval of the proposal (provided in the Council packet); Andy seconded; motion passed with one abstention.
- 14) Committee reports
  - a) Finance
    - i) Request to add a financial report to the newsletter.
    - ii) When cash flow, currently at \$23,000, falls to \$10,000, Council will be informed and ask council to freeze all expenditures other than salaries and costs for maintaining the property and alerting the congregation to needs.
  - b) Evangelism - report provided in council packet
  - c) Personnel – Jay reported the committee is meeting to consider annual evaluation of performance by personnel. Pastor Monica will contact the candidate for the AV-

technician as approved (item 14). Alyssa Kaplan has accepted the position of Campus Minister and will begin this position on August 17.

- d) Property – John reported Bell tower, electronic hardware is complete however, software for ringing the bell is required. Options will be presented for displaying a rainbow flag at the next meeting of Council. Lois reported no success in locating the banner to welcome students. Mara reported that the von Bora house is available for occupancy.
  - e) Social ministry – Leah reported that committee meetings require no council action.
  - f) Worship and music – report in council packet
  - g) Stewardship – Kathy noted the letter of appreciation from Bennet to the members.
  - h) Campus Ministry – COVID-19 guidelines were prepared. Dialog with groups to determine when use of the student center is appropriate. Seth moved that we make an exception for use of the campus center for use by students as proposed by the guidelines with the date determined after Alyssa arrives. Following discussion, motion withdrawn and will be presented for consideration out of session by email.
- 15) Pastor's report – Andy noted involvement with greater number of counseling sessions.
- 16) Director of Music – Fred noted contributions to the web site and possible need to restrict expenditures.
- 17) Pastor Monica shared a closing prayer, remembering members, returning students and all who strive to keep us safe.
- 18) Seth moved to adjourn; Andy seconded; motion passed, ending the meeting at 1:30 p.m.
- 19) Next regular meeting, Zoom format, September 6 at 11:30 p.m. Mara will provide devotions.

Out of session action:

August 12: Fred moved that Carolyn Howard be accepted as interim Council member for Carol Reynold's position until the annual LMLC congregational meeting in November 2020. Mara seconded. Motion passed.

Submitted by John Hess, Secretary Aug 12, revised Aug 19

Congregation Council Corner – September newsletter

With recommendations from the Committee on Finance, Council reviewed reductions to the 2019 spending plan. Committees are asked to monitor expenditures carefully and prioritize needs for future spending.

Adopted the recommendations from the COVID-19 Task Force with a decision to evaluate restricted use of the buildings after the October 4 meeting of Council.

The subcommittee for presenting revisions to the *Constitution and Bylaws of LMLC*, proceeds with the understanding that specific changes to the bylaws will be considered in 2021.

Carol Reynolds is relocating and resigned her position from Council. Council elected Carolyn Howard to serve the remaining months of this year.