



A Reconciling in Christ Congregation



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 September 6, 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, Alyssa Kaplan, Seth Knight, Mara Knott, Tim Larson, Pastor Monica, Kathy Parrott, Fred Rencsok, Ed Vigen, and Lois Voss

- 1) Mara shared a prayer from St. Benedict's prayer book, seeking support of the spirit of Jesus to confront the challenges of our life in this time.
- 2) Fred welcomed Carolyn Howard and Alyssa Kaplan to the meeting, expressing gratitude for their service and input.
- 3) Agenda: Alyssa asked for inclusion of a consideration of using the campus center under new business. Fred moved adoption of the modified agenda; Andy seconded: motion passed.
- 4) Minutes: Kathy clarified the wording of item 5)d. to read The contractor has submitted the application for the building permit for the renovation of the fellowship hall. Pastor Monica moved adoption of the revised minutes for August 2; Kathy seconded; motion passed
- 5) Old business
 - a) Mara presented the financial report (in Council packet). In August member contributions were less than in July and one-time expenditures resulted in a decrease of \$5,732 for the month. At this time no payments for benevolence support other than to the Virginia Synod are planned until the end of the year. Pastor reminded Council that a significant portion of benevolence payments for 2019 were paid in January of 2020. The September financial summary should provide a clearer picture of "where we really are."
 - b) Kathy will provide Pastor Monica with the list of equipment that is being purchased for the AV facilities in the fellowship hall through Hook Ups Plus.

600 Prices Fork Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060
Tel: 540-951-1000
e-mail: luther@lmlc.org
www.lmlc.org

c) Seth reported that plumbing and electrical connections for the laundry are completed and that appliances have been ordered.

d) Kathy reported progress on the renovation project,

i) reminding persons that access to the fellowship hall will be limited during construction; enter through the front door using the sign in/out log in the narthex.

ii) Furniture and some materials for the project will be stored in the narthex and banner room during construction.

iii) As long as the space becomes available for election day, Lois Voss indicated that using protocols established by the election board for the primary vote assures a safe election in November.

iv) Access to the garage door opener for the mowing crews will be relocated from the janitor's closet to the narthex.

e) Pastor Monica and Marcia Barrow reviewed the roster of membership at LMLC that is provided in the packet. The quorum for meetings of the congregation is based on 157 confirmed members listed who are eligible to vote.

f) Lois summarized the report from the COVID-19 task force provided in the packet

6) New Business

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Spending plan – Mara reminded all conveners of the need to have proposed committee expenditures submitted to the Committee on Finance by September 16. The committee will prepare the spending plan for consideration at the October meeting of Council. Committee on personnel will be determining costs for staff benefits

a) including the possible addition for supporting a campus minister.

b) Revisions to the constitution – Lois moved that the Council recommend that the congregation adopt changes to the constitution for LMLC to comply with the model constitution of the ELCA; Pastor Monica seconded. Discussion clarified that there would be no language changed regarding bylaws until revisions are prepared for consideration in 2021. John moved the question on the motion; motion passed. Fred called the vote on the motion; the motion passed.

c) Committee Restructuring will be considered in 2021 in preparation for revision to the by-laws of LMLC. These discussions will need to be scheduled within guidelines for consideration at two congregational meetings so as to implement these changes in 2022.

d) Campus Ministry/the Well -

i) Alyssa reported the basis of the Wednesday Bible study is the journeys of Paul as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles while highlighting the work of deacons and women in the early church.

ii) Olivia Slagel, an east coast recruiter for YAGM, and Alyssa will discuss justice issues at borders based on Olivia's experience in Palestine and Alyssa's in Mexico. Olivia will then lead a Bible study relating current issues in Palestine to the concerns of the early church.

e) Campus Center – Alyssa highlighted her report (included in the packet of information)

i) new HEPA filters are ordered and will be installed that adequately process the air in the center.

- ii) Carolyn asked about the status of “Adopt to Student” program. Alyssa will discuss how best to implement the program with the leadership team. Seth moved to extend discussion for 3 min; Monica seconded; motion passed.
- iii) Alyssa reviewed that the center would be used only for study for up to ten students at a time, following guidelines established by the COVID-19 Task Force . Students who have signed the covenant, established by the leadership team, for using the campus center may schedule designated spaces for two-hour intervals, persons are responsible for wiping down all spaces they have used before they leave. Seth moved extension of discussion for two min; Andy seconded; motion passed. Of the students participating in the Well, only one has not returned to campus. Andy moved extension of time for five minutes; Pastor Monica seconded; motion passed. John moved approval of the use of the student center for study by students who have signed and abide by the covenant established by the leadership team of the Well; Seth seconded; motion passed.
- f) Program Year – Pastor Monica reviewed information regarding in person gathering for a social event or shared meal which is missed and valued. October 4, blessing of the animals will be an in-person event for which some refreshments may be planned for any persons who attend with or without a pet.
- 7) Report from Pastor Monica – received with no comment
- 8) Report from Director of Music – received with assurance that continuing education funds are available for continuing information. Needs for education about use of recording equipment. Pastor Monica will confirm with Nita that funds are available for her use. Mara will also offer assurance from the Committee on Finance.

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9) Committee Reports

- a) Finance – Mara reminded all committee liaisons and chairpersons to review the detail of the monthly expense report. Bennett Cassel is working on a second letter to encourage members to maintain their support for the ministries at LMLC.
- b) Evangelism – report from Cassel International regarding website usage included in packet received without comment.
- c) Mutual Ministry, Personnel, Compensation – Andy reported work with the Committees on Personnel and Compensation toward developing a Lifeline Fund for alleviating pastoral educational debt in partnership with the Virginia and Southeastern Synods.
- d) Congregation Care – Lois reviewed continuing need to connect with members isolated as caused by providing worship and information only online. Evaluate additional ways to help these members be better connected.
- e) Property – Pastor Monica confirmed that the bell is now functional. Elevator repair is in process; cost for restoring elevator service is not determined at this time.
- f) Social Ministry – activity summarized in minutes included in packet.
- g) Stewardship – Kathy reported that response with pledges is better than 2019 with a good response from the letter mailed in June. Work has begun for how we will request pledges for supporting ministry in 2021.
- h) Christian Education – Fred reported that Phil Jordan plans to resume the Thursday morning class in 2021, pending the status of COVID-19 reports.

- 10) Pastor Monica offered a prayer
- 11) Fred moved adjournment; seconded by Andy; motion passed.
- 12) Next regular meeting, Zoom format, October 6 at 11:30 p.m. Ed will provide devotions