

Peace Lutheran Church Council
Meeting Minutes
1-28-16

The meeting was convened with a prayer by Council President Don Zimmer at 6:30pm. In attendance were, Don Zimmer, Wendell Anderson, Elizabeth Constantine, Carole Crawford, Don Zimmer, Heidi McGee Ortolano, Pam Pedersen, Ginny Wolford, Lori Arguelles, Bradley Oliver, Torey Draughn, and Jeff Preston. Mary Oliver and Dale Hupp attended in their roles as pending council members. Pastor Craig Endicott was absent. Devotions were provided by Mrs. Wolford.

December Meeting Minutes

Mr. Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes from the December meeting, which was seconded by Mrs. Constantine and carried unanimously. Mr. Preston requested a clarification regarding the concurrence on the \$15k mortgage payment brought forward in December. The minutes were then approved unanimously.

Council Member Installation

Mr. Zimmer noted that the Installation of the Council will occur during both services on January 31, 2016.

Council Meeting Schedule

Mr. Zimmer confirmed that the current meeting schedule (4th Thursday of the month) is still agreeable. Exceptions include council meetings in March, November, and December—which will take place on the third Thursday of the month. In July, the council meeting will coincide with the council retreat, once it is scheduled.

Town Hall Meeting Schedule

Mr. Zimmer proposed April 17, July 17, and October 15 as the dates for Town Hall meetings in 2016. There was discussion about how best to include and address major congregational activities, including the timing of Pastor Endicott's pending retirement and related search committee activities. Mrs. Constantine made a motion to adopt the proposed schedule which was seconded by Mr. Draughn and carried unanimously. A date for the 2017 Congregational Annual Meeting was discussed but not determined. It was determined that Child Care will be provided for each council meeting.

Council Leadership

Mr. Zimmer led a discussion of vacant council roles, including Fellowship, Education, Social Concerns, noting that Social Concerns is more demanding than the other roles. With respect to Fellowship, Mrs. Oliver and Mr. Zimmer reported on conversations with several people who have indicated their interest in assisting including AnneMarie Trost, Larry and Patty Day, Amy and John Maerhoffer. To address the difficulty of filling so many council seats, it was suggested that Fellowship could be a subcommittee of Hospitality and Welcoming. Mrs. Wolford suggested that Education could also be melded into another committee. Ms. Arguelles suggested that prior to any reorganization of council committees that charters for the current committees be reviewed (or drafted as needed) prior to the end of the first quarter of the year. Mr. Zimmer agreed to share charters and their relationships to other committees that had been completed last year. He asked Council members to review the charters with their committees prior to the February Council meeting in order to be prepared to address the structure/organization issues at the March Council

meeting. Ms. Arguelles agreed to share an example of committee charters and other governance documents. Mrs. Ortolano agreed to share a draft board covenant for consideration.

In addition to the structural evaluation of all Council Committees, it was suggested that a similar review be undertaken for staff.

With respect to Social Concerns, Mrs. Crawford indicated that someone could run the committee and not be as active in day-to-day operations as she has been, but volunteers would be needed to carry out ministries such as the Food Pantry, which tends to be well covered, and Safe Nights, which tends to be more challenging. There was discussion of the need for a coordinator/recruiter for these activities—perhaps a ‘staffunteer’ (partly staff/partly volunteer role). It was noted that personal invitations to participate are key, which prompted a discussion around communication. Mr. Hupp noted that people continually need to be updated and invited to participate through multiple channels. Mrs. Constantine suggested taking pictures (as appropriate) and showing updates during Sunday worship. There was also discussion of rethinking the way announcements are conducted during services. Mr. Hupp indicated he would be visiting Reformation Lutheran in DC to get ideas and input, particularly as he conducts an inventory of how communication occurs at PLC. Committee meeting minutes were noted as a good source of information for the PLC Newsletter.

Finance Update

Mr. Anderson reported on income and expense as sent in the yearly parochial report to ELCA (See attached), noting that ‘Earned’ income includes facility rental fees and interest earned on bank accounts. The discussion prompted Mr. Preston to note that repairs should ideally be identified in advance and budgeted for.

Mr. Draughn made a motion to approve another \$15,000 payment to the Mission Investment Fund for our capital loan, as efforts continue to reduce the amount of principal in the loan. Mr. Anderson, who seconded the motion, indicated the goal is to have the loan amount as low as possible when the Adjustable Rate Mortgage resets in December 2017. The motion was approved with one opposed.

Mr. Anderson reported that Peace is now a customer of Old Line Bank, which replaced SunTrust as the church’s banking partner. In conjunction with the change, Mr. Anderson made a motion to authorize himself and the Pastor Endicott to execute an application with TMC Bank—the credit card provider for Old Line Bank-- on behalf of Peace Lutheran Church. As part of the application, authorized users would include Pastor Endicott as well as the Church Administrative Assistant and the Church Youth Director. Mr. Preston seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Mr. Draughn noted that, in follow up to discussion at the Congregation’s Annual Meeting in January, an official policy/process needs to be created for handling stock donations. He indicated the Finance Committee will undertake that task and put forward a recommendation, most likely in February.

Race/Equity

Mr. Zimmer had sent Martin Luther King Jr.’s final Christmas message as a prompt for the discussion. Conversation was wide ranging with observations including: “Maybe we simplify race too much” Ms. Arguelles suggested that another way to frame the conversation would be around

equity. Mrs. Pedersen asked for specific examples of how to 'bridge the divide.' Suggestions included being more actively engaged in the physical community immediately surrounding Peace; engaging our hearts in addition to heads in program/service delivery; intentionally focusing on interaction and what unites, as opposed to what divides; and being authentic and genuine. Mrs. Wolford suggested small group conversations about this important topic might be fruitful.

The meeting was adjourned, with prayer, at 8:20pm.