

March 17, 2016

Present: Mary Oliver, Jeff Preston, Torey Draughn, PC, Wendell Anderson, Dale Hupp, Don Zimmer, Brad Oliver, Heidi Ortolano, Ginny Wolford, Elizabeth Constantine

Non-Voting Attendees: Amy Sevimi, Nathan Bradd
Absent: Lori Arguelles

Meeting was called to order at 6:37p
Devotions were provided by Ginny Wolford.
Minutes were approved from the February Council Meeting.

Pastoral Transition- presented by Rev. Amy Sevimli

PC is planning to retire in January of 2017. The call committee and interviews should begin in September. PC will send out a letter about his retirement once the Council has a timeline in place.

Rev. Sevimli presented two options as we move towards a new pastor. The first option is the Intentional Interim process. This has been the traditional method in the past. PC would leave and an interim pastor would be assigned. This pastor will help with the day to day going on, but not help with the call process. Then we would call a new pastor. This option could take up to a year, but may also take much longer.

The second option is to hire a consultant. Rev. Sevimli recommended Jim Pence. He can be hired to help lead us through the transition while PC is still here. This process has taken up to 9 months in other congregations. Jim would come and hold a retreat (2 days, about 3 hours each day) with the leadership to talk through the process. He would leave an online survey for the congregation to complete over the next 3-4 weeks. There will be a way for people not comfortable with computers to take the survey also. After the results are returned, a second retreat will be held where a person (Robin) from the company that made the survey will read the results to us, usually over Skype. Then Jim would talk us through the interpretation of the results which will allow us to see our strengths and weaknesses. Jim will then help us complete the Ministry Site Profile. This would be given to the call committee and the process would be the same as with an interim pastor.

The consultant process has become the norm when a pastor is retiring. This option may also relieve members leaving because of the interruptions in Pastors. Some other benefits are that Jim will help write Peace's MSP, and the pastor transition may be immediate or 2-4 weeks. Jim would probably want to communicate with as many people as possible if communication is needed. PLC would need to cover his consultant fees, along with transportation fees. Right now, there is another congregation in the area that is using his services beginning in April/May. Rev.

Sevimli recommended that our first retreat should be in May, so we would need to contact Jim as soon as possible.

For both processes, a Ministry Site Profile will need to be completed. A call committee would be organized to meet with potential candidates. The synod would provide those candidates, and can also review any specific candidates we may know. The synod list is created through a Rostered Leader Profile. Rev. Sevimli will look through the list and decide if any are a good fit. She may also look for candidates through her networks of people. After interviews have been conducted, a recommendation would be made to the council.

Ms. Wolford moved that we take Rev. Sevimli's option to hire a consultant, Jim Pence, to move us through the call process. Mr. Hupp seconded. Discussion was focused on the length of time before calling a new pastor and members leaving; along with interims have the flexibility to experiment with worship. The motion was passed with two abstentions.

Mr. Zimmer will contact Rev. Sevimli for a recommendation on moving forward with contacting Jim Pence.

Conversation

Mr. Zimmer shared his thoughts about recent articles that have been emailed discussing pruning of church activities, the idea of gathering versus scattering, and the spirituality of fundraising. Mr. Zimmer's handout is attached.

Gifts of Stock

The procedure is in its final stages. Mr. Draughn read what the Finance Committee has written so far. Some of the main points include: the donor is responsible for making sure the donation goes through, and specific Finance Committee members (Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair) should be contacted to let them know a donation is coming. It was also discussed that only the person(s) on record with VanGuard can sell the stock. Currently that two people are Mr. Zimmer and Ms. Arguilles.

Mr. Draughn moved that Peace Lutheran Church would have the authority to sell the donated stock as soon as practical. The motion was seconded by Pastor Craig. The motions passed unanimously.

Town Meeting

The first town meeting of the year is scheduled for April 17 between services, and also after the 2nd service. There is an announcement in the bulletin, and will also be announced on Sunday morning. The Executive Committee will finalize the agenda.

Any ideas should be shared with Mr. Zimmer. Pastor's retirement will be announced again.

Communications

Mr. Hupp visited Reformation and Grace Lutheran to learn about their newsletters and announcement methods. Reformation uses Publisher and Mail Chimp to send out the newsletter, and also an insert in the bulletin for announcements. Grace uses Publisher and Constant Contact to send out their newsletter. Mr. Hupp presented a mock newsletter that would be emailed out beginning the week after Easter. The goal would be to make the announcements page and the newsletter consistent. If we decide to use an insert in the bulletin we would need to remove either 4 or 8 pages from the bulletin.

Committee Charters

There were no questions. Mr. Zimmer would like all charters sent to him by the end of March.

Solar

The Executive Committee, Jeff Preston, and Charlie Warren were presented with information about solar energy from two companies, Solar City and Essex. Mr. Preston, Ms. Arguilles, and Mr. Anderson will be making a recommendation by the end of the month.

Highlights from each presentation:

Solar City- They would install the equipment, and sell the power back to us at a reduced rate. There are options to buy the equipment.

Essex- The equipment would be purchased through grants and other funding.

Lenten Downsizing

This program is ongoing through Lent.

Safe Nights

There are still some openings for volunteers.

10 Predictions about the Future Church: Shifting attendance patterns and their implications for the institution;

A PowerPoint presentation was given by Pastor Craig. There were 10 points that people need to consider about church attendance. The model of attendance is changing.