

Lutheran Church of the Reformation
August 2021 Council Meeting
Meeting Agenda and Notes

Present: Molly Higgins, Elizabeth Hann, Pastor Mike Wilker, Pastor Ben Hogue, Emily Andre, Judith Mangubat, Andy Weaver, Ivy Finkenstadt, Tegan Peterson, Karen Carlson, Craig Haas, Parry Carlson, *Laura Swanson*, Lyndon Smith

Agenda:

August 17, 2021

6:45 PM Social time

7:00 PM Call to Order – Molly

- Devotions, Prayer Ivy

7:09 PM Secretary's Report – Approval of June minutes

- Ivy moved to approve; Craig seconded. The motion was passed by all.

7:11 PM Financial report –

- Matt Aviles and Morgan Hann have agreed to serve as Finance Committee co-chairs. Javi Miranda will remain on the committee to provide continuity and support. When they have a chance to meet with the Finance Committee, they may have other comments.
- Member giving is basically right on budget through June. This is a good sign. Thank you and to all our members for your consistent and generous giving to the General budget. This is also a good sign because we increased the Member giving budget from \$360,000 to \$400,000--that's a big increase, but it was consistent with the actual member giving in 2020.
- Space Use Contributions are down \$10,757 compared to budget for the first six months of 2021. We've had quite a few space use contributions come in this summer. But this is the biggest area where the PPP loan forgiveness will cover us.
- In the special funds category, you can see the donations designated for special ministries (Food Pantry, Good Neighbors Refugee, Southeast Ministry, Choir Section leaders, etc). These are funds that are passed through to specific projects (you'll see their expenses in the Service and Justice, Worship, or other ministry areas. This is also where we show money transferred from the Anniversary Campaign or McNeill Truehart funds for staffing.
- Endowment earnings are drawn occasionally (perhaps only once) each year. You can find the fund balances for the Endowment/Investments on page 7 (the last page).
- Expenses are as expected, mostly far below budget.
- Worship, Music, and Arts. Note that the Choir Leaders expense is 50% of budget because this Spring they only come on Sundays since there were no choir practices. These are paid by the special designated gifts (above). The Parish Hall piano is a refurbished large piano that will replace the small upright piano, which will be moved to the Shalom Room. The cost is partly being paid by the Music Space Use groups. The Paul Leavitt

Commission refers to the WMA Committee's special commission to Paul to compose a Stabat Mater Dolorosa, a 13th century poem which views Mary seeing her son suffer. The title means the "Sorrowful Mother was standing."

- Spiritual Growth, Fellowship and Caring, Engagement and Communications have had minimal expenses.
- Many Service and Justice expenses relate to the special designated funds (above). This is also where we show our congregations 8% general offering to the ELCA via the Metro DC Synod. While this page shows only the expenditures during this time period, you can find the fund balances for the Food Pantry, Good Neighbors and other ministries on page 5 of the Financial Report.
- Staff Expenses are on track.

7:21 PM Visit from Property Committee – Parry Carlson

- Purpose: work with Dir. Of Op to establish maintenance priorities.
- Projects under \$15k and within the budget amount can be done on their own, when over \$15k, they have to be approved by council.
- Building and grounds team is creating a list of major projects over the next 3-5 years of big expenses including a time line (replacing the elevator or AC unit).
- Property committee members: Parry (chair), Dale Manty, Del Voss, Valerie Botts, Andrew Robb.
- Unexpected items do come up!
- HVAC in the sanctuary is over 20 years old and is beginning to fail. We need to add ~25K into the property budget.
- Volunteer teams/work groups (up to 30 people) gather to do painting or plumbing projects. Parry and Emma Harrington also work on small projects.
- Top projects for 2021 (for more detail please see attached Property Updates document):
 - o Repair office roof: \$5000
 - o Repair 220 Gate: \$830
 - o Lighting in the stairwell to the choir room: \$1150
 - o Alley door (peep hole added by Parry) - \$0
 - o Still to be done this fall
 - Repair blinds in 220 - \$500
 - o Pastor Ben's office has active water damage
 - Pastor Mike and Tegan will make an assessment of the office building including tuck pointing and mold assessment.
 - We will also get an estimate for fixing the plaster and paint for the walls.

8:01 PM Update on fall worship plans

- September 12th we will move to two services instead of 1 (8:30 and 11:00 am).
- This will allow for more flexibility for people but will also space us out a bit.
- When, where and how for the choir to practice is under discussion.
- If the choir comes back into worship, they will wear their masks.
- We have a need for more volunteers for worship leaders (in person and online).
- People are wondering if we still need the zoom room?

- o Maybe it would be better to have a social or reflective zoom conversation on Sunday evenings?

8:15 PM Discussion on the possibility of hanging Black Lives Matters banner.

- This is something that has been discussed previously.
- What is the work that we need to do to stand behind that statement.
- Let's think about that this month.
- Conversation with the Ameous Collective a few years back. Had difficult conversations at this meeting. Ameous Collective started by Pr. Lenny Duncan. This was a way to have some congregations experiment with change and anti-racism in the congregation. We hired Crossroads Anti-racism staff to do anti-racism training. This is something that we should probably do again since its been a few years.
- What can we do to implement this idea. Previously we needed to commit a certain amount of money to the Ameous Collective.
- There are more uncomfortable conversations that need to happen within the congregation.

8:29 PM Ministry Area Committee Action Items and Reports

Worship, Music and Art – Ivy

- New choir robes are being purchased.

Spiritual Growth – Pr. Ben

- Summer Sunday school had a campfire a few weeks ago.
- Spiritual growth workday tidied the Sunday school spaces.
- Gather Sunday is coming up (Sept 12th). Pr. Ben is discussing with Jessica Snowden if we should do Sunday School in person. We plan to follow what schools are doing.
- Nursery workers are wonderful to work with.

Fellowship and Caring Ministries – Pr. Mike

- Continue to support several members
 - o Jennifer Novak has moved into her own apartment and continues to progress.
 - o Chester Heart was in the hospital due to a heart condition last week.

Engagement and Communication – Pr. Ben

- Website redesign continues. A designer has been hired and has worked to design a new website. We will hopefully have the completed website soon.

Stewardship, Property and Finance – no additional updates.

Service and Justice - Karen and Lyndon

- Food pantry is a bit slow.
- Good neighbors refugee resettlement discussion is ongoing. They will work with LSS to find new space.

Personnel – Craig, no updates.

Archives & History – Emily, no updates.

- Sunday school chapel has some potential artifacts (i.e. felt boards of bible stories). Approach Valerie about reviewing this.

8:47 PM Staff Reports - Pr. Mike, Pr. Ben, Tegan

- Angela Small is going to be accepting a new position. She will have 3 more weeks with Reformation.
- Listening campaign work is ongoing.
- Pr. Mike's annual review is pending, Pr. Mike needs to meet with Larry King to discuss the review framework.

8:52 PM Closing Prayer – Ivy

8:58 PM Adjourn