

Lutheran Church of the Reformation
Council Meeting – January 18, 2022

Present: Pastor Russ Gordon, Emily Andre, Karen Carlson, Ivy Finkenstadt, Craig Haas, John Hagood, Elizabeth Hann, Suzanne Hazard, Judith Mangubat, Ella Petree, Lyndon Smith, Jessica Snowden, Laura Swanson, Mike Thompson, Elizabeth Wirick

Staff Present: Jarrod Jabre

Motions Approved (unanimous unless otherwise noted)

- 1) Minutes of November 16, 2021 and December 14, 2021 Council meetings approved (moved Emily Andre, seconded Mike Thompson)
- 2) Financial Secretary Hazard is authorized to transfer \$9,044 to Southeast Ministry from the Kindel Fund (moved Craig Hass, seconded Emily Andre)
- 3) Fair market value of parsonage is \$2641 per month for calendar year 2022 (moved Mike Thompson, seconded Emily Andre)

Discussion Items

Transition: Emily Andre explained that the transition team has been speaking with potential members of the Call Committee; the Congregation will vote to approve the Call Committee members at the Congregational meeting February 20. The Call Committee will then take the lead on completing Reformation's ministry site profile, which the synod uses to match potential candidates. Pastor Erin Swenson Reinhold will attend the Council retreat on January 22 and provide a summary of the call process on behalf of the synod.

Bank Account Issue: Suzanne Hazard explained that on January 18, Jarrod Jabre received a call from a bank reporting potential suspicious activity. The bank believed a check from Reformation had been fraudulently presented and placed a hold on the check. After confirming that the intended recipient had not received the check, Suzanne and Jarrod closed the account.

Suzanne and Jarrod will continue working with the banks and will take actions recommended by the banks and if applicable, insurance company. Because there was a hold on the check, Reformation will recover the money from the banks. Reformation also has insurance to cover instances like this.

Tech Team Challenges: Jessica Snowden summarized an email some members of Council received from Andy Weaver on behalf of the Tech Team. There have been a number of challenges and the system is difficult to manage. Ella Petree, who serves on the Tech Team, confirmed the recent difficulties, which are exacerbated by space users adjusting the settings that are then difficult to restore. The Tech Team is also in need of additional volunteers. Jarrod Jabre will work with Andy and other members of the Tech Team to determine how best to address these issues, such as by securing the booth in a partition, ensuring that space users designate appropriate personnel and possibly hiring someone to run the livestream.

Report from Pastor Russ: Pastor Russ thanked everyone who contributed to getting the parsonage ready and repeated his thanks for the warm welcome. Pastor Russ had not yet met with Rabbi Hannah, who was isolating related to COVID, but has spoken to Emma Harrington about ministry to home bound members and will plans to speak with Phil Moeller. Pastor Russ recommends Council read Becoming a Hybrid Church. It is difficult to buy in small quantities and he will look into ordering copies for Council members – in the meantime, several copies may be available on the shelves in the fellowship hall.

Online Giving and Church Management Software: Mike Thompson reported that he, Matt Aviles, Suzanne Hazard and Judith Mangubat have been considering software that integrates member directory information and also provides a better experience for users of the online giving portal. We currently use Icon and Vanco for online giving. The top contenders at this point are Tithe.ly and Breeze.

Food Pantry: Karen Carlson reported usage has been lower than expected and now some of the food in the bags may be expiring. Many recent clients seem to be experiencing homelessness; for example, Karen had to obtain can openers based on requests.

Social Media: Mike Thompson confirmed that Pastor Russ is planning to take over Reformation's social media postings on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and YouTube.

Approved at February 15, 2022 Council meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Wirick
Secretary