

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

Present: Molly Higgins, Elizabeth Hann, Pastor Mike Wilker, Pastor Ben Hogue, Emily Andre, Judith Mangubat, Andy Weaver, Karen Carlson, Craig Haas, Laura Swanson, Pete Hillman, Kathryn Tobias, Lyndon Smith

Agenda:

June 15, 2021

6:45 PM Social time

7:00 PM Call to Order – Molly

7:03 PM Secretary's Report – Approval of May minutes

- Karen moved to approve; Elizabeth seconded. The motion was passed by all.

7:04 PM Financial report –

- Tegan let us know that our HVAC expenses are not over budget as indicated. The report will be updated accordingly.
- Other pass-through funds that can be seen are from people that donated to give to Lisa Antonin and Jennifer Novak which have been given to them.
- Stewardship will investigate other donation methods (i.e. Venmo) to make giving easier.
- Required minimum distributions can be sent directly to the church tax free.

7:10 PM Visit from Engagement and Communication – Pete Hillman, Pr. Ben

- Evangelism is an aspirational goal for Reformation. As a council we will need to discern if this is an important goal for our congregation and to put our money into that space if so.
- This committee works with publications (weekly word, annual report), external communications (social media, website etc.).
- One of the major goals is to update the website.
 - o Modernize the website experience
 - o Ensure accessibility
 - o Streamline navigation
 - o Reduce pages with low view volume
 - o Ensure site is easy to maintain
 - o Other goals:
 - Make current and prospective worshipers feel welcome
 - Make the website modern, less text dependent
 - o They have received 35 proposals which were narrowed down to 5 designers
 - o Photography and videography needs
 - o The budget may be around \$3000

- Next meeting will be on July 11th to continue the information architecture development, better understand what work we can do versus what we want to pay someone else to do.
- Pr. Ben has submitted the ELCA Open Doors grant to engage with the community. The plan would be to host a summer or fall event on the plaza with music, and to maybe have ice cream on Thursday Sept. 16th.
- How does council envision inviting friends and family to the church? Many times, this happens through “side doors” i.e. a free concert, small groups, other space users.

7:45 PM Good Neighbors Refugee Resettlement – Kathy Tobias, Dale Manty, Kevin Larson

- The idea came on a tour in Germany watching churches respond to refugees.
- Lutheran Social Services and now 8 congregations are all involved.
- Various refugee support is provided to refugees from Afghanistan, El Salvador and Cameroon over the past 5 years.
- They provide transportation, food, cars, health care, education, tutoring and more for the refugees.
- Finances
 - o They currently have \$35k, \$34k directly supports refugees.
 - o Typically, they provide \$8k per apartment and have provided more than 60 apartments + other assistance in the last 5 years. Therefore more than \$500k in assistance has been provided to refugees.
- Refugees are typically settled in Prince George’s County MD.
- So far they have set up 58 family apartments and 59 and 60 are upcoming.
- Most supplies are donated, and responsibilities are divided between congregations: Reformation is responsible for furniture
 - o Donated by church members, friends and curb finds
 - o They need help to identify appropriate spaces to store the furniture until its needed

8:10 PM Ministry Area Committee Action Items and Reports

Worship, Music and Arts

- Feed back on first hybrid service
 - o How was our first hybrid service?
 - o Volunteer capacity needs to re-evaluated. We have ~15 roles to fill every Sunday, how are we going to fill these positions without burning people out?
 - o We’re having trouble filling even the “old” roles (i.e. Assisting minister)
 - o We had new people at church on Sunday!

Spiritual Growth – Pr. Ben

- 7 Graduates were celebrated on Sunday.
- The Blessed Be the Body series is complete.

Fellowship and Caring Ministries –

- Meal train for Jennifer is ongoing. No additional updates.

Stewardship, Property and Finance - Laura

- None of the committees have any updates.

Service and Justice - Karen and Lyndon

- The Food Pantry is up and operating for the distribution of bags of food to our clients in need. Food pantries as a whole are seeing less clients (we have 5 clients). An order for 180 bags of food was delivered May 20. Pastor Ben met the truck and congregational volunteers arrived to help unload the food from the truck into the Food Pantry. On Sunday, May 23, Heather Strand led about 10 volunteers for the bagging of the food. The Food Pantry officially opened to the public May 26. So far, the FP has served around 5 clients and Angela will be working on contacting previous regular clients and those that came at the end of 2019/beginning of 2020 to let them know we're open. We are in need of members to work Thursday evenings from either 5-7 p.m. or 7-9 p.m.
- As federal and city funding to residents tapers off, we may see more people coming.
- Everyone Home DC had a meeting and discussed that more funds need to be allocated to permanent housing for DC residents.

Personnel – Craig

- All staff reviews, except for Pr. Mike's, are complete.
- No additional updates.

Archives & History – Emily

- No updates.

8:47 PM Synod Assembly Report- Molly, Elizabeth, Lyndon

- The event was organized well over zoom, but it would be nice to meet in person in the future to build relationships with other synod members.
- The Synod has a lot of forward thinking, and the nominations reflect a new generation of the church, young people and women of color representing.
- Excellent talks were given throughout the event.
- One of this year's resolutions was to formally and publicly support DC statehood. The other resolution was to request that the ELCA recognize the Armenian genocide. These resolutions will go to the ELCA wide assembly next summer.

8:58 PM Staff Reports - Pr. Mike, Pr. Ben, Tegan

- Please see attached reports.

9:00 PM Closing Prayer – Emily

9:02 PM Adjourn