

Roseau Evangelical Covenant Church

## **Leadership Council Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**October 28, 2025**

**“To Share the Love and Hope of Jesus in Today’s World”**

**Present:** Tony Fichter, Nate Johnson, Kelly Christianson, Dave Anderson, Chris Shortreed, Randy Prachar, Rachel Krahn, Todd Peterson, Sonya Peterson,

**Absent:** Steve Huglen

The Leadership Council members, Deacon board members and other church members were led by Pastor Nate in a time of worship and specific prayer throughout the various rooms of the church to seek God’s will and guidance for RECC.

LC Chairperson Tony Fichter Called the meeting to Order.

Jason Wood, director of Northland Christian Counseling Center presented his proposal of opening a site in Roseau, with a specific Counselor, Courtney Peters (LPC), to meet with clients in a room at our church on one to two weekdays per week. They are looking for a partnership with a church in Roseau, as there has been an identified need for counseling services in the Roseau area. NCCC would pay a set amount of rent and provide their own insurance. NCCC’s code of ethics as discussed agreed with Scripture. Jason Wood answered many questions from the LC was thanked and excused.

After discussion, the general consensus from the LC members is to move forward, meet with Courtney Peters, and if that goes well, to recommend this proposal at the November Congregational meeting.

LC monthly meeting minutes from September 30, 2025, will be emailed to LC members for approval.

**Pastoral Update:** Pastor Nate Johnson reflected on the prayer time before the meeting and encouraged LC members as leaders of the church to be plugged in to Jesus.

**Youth Ministry Update:** Chris Shortreed stated that there were not enough interested students to go forward with the 2026 missions trip to Honduras. He will be looking for other mission alternatives. He stated a possibility of doing something with Ken Danielson at the Northwest Angle. Chris also requested permission and funds to attend the January 2026 Covenant Mid-Winter Conference in Chicago. The LC gave permission to cover registration and travel expenses.

**YTD Financial Update:** Todd Peterson informed the LC about a new Minnesota state required Paid Family Leave policy. Tony Fichter made a **motion:** that Todd Peterson be appointed administrator for the Paid Family Leave policy and that RECC cover the full 0.88% premium for the 2026 year and be subject to yearly review, and that staff can use their Paid Time Off to supplement the MN Paid Family Leave from the state. Dave Anderson seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously.

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**Trustee Board Update:** Kelly Christianson presented the Proposed 2026 Budget. He noted that there is a budget total increase of 3.19% from 2025. There is a decrease in staff expenses. There are increases in Deacons and Youth Ministry budgets. Tony noted that the Building Committee will be requesting \$15,000.00 for furniture, paint and improvements, which is not included in the current budget proposal. Kelly noted that some planned Capital expenses may not be necessary because a lawn mower has been donated and there is fundraising and an anonymous matching donation for a new church van. Kelly made a **motion:** to accept the Proposed 2026 Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Randy Prachar, and passed.

**Christian Formation Board Update:** Rachel Krahn reported the SS student numbers over the last several years to follow up from discussion at a previous meeting. SS Superintendent Juli Smedsmo provided numbers of average weekly attendance in the Nursery through high school SS classes (2021-22: 22 students), (2023-24: 31 students), (2024-25: 36 students), and (2025-26 so far: 41 students) indicating an upward trend. Documents of “Expectations for Volunteers” have been developed, for continuity, in areas of Children’s Church, Nursery, Sunday School and Youth group. Rachel noted that Chris had done an exceptional job with the Youth volunteer guidelines. There is a new policy that all volunteers working in children’s ministries on Sunday mornings should be wearing volunteer lanyards, so as to be identifiable to parents and kids. Thanks to Marissa Cleven for putting together First Aid kits in marked locations in the Kitchen, Nursery and the Large group room. Rachel noted that an oversight was discovered as she was going through the CF budget and receipts. The Ministry Safe yearly subscription of \$400 per year has continued to automatically renew, even though we have not been utilizing this service for two or three years. Chris confirmed that he has now cancelled this subscription.

**Missions and Outreach Board Update:** Sonya Peterson stated last Sunday’s offering for KICY radio in Alaska totaled \$330.00. Fall Fest will be next Sunday, November 2nd. The MN Adult and Teen Challenge Men’s Choir will be singing during the service. The M/O members will serve a meal for everyone after the service. The LC had previously approved (a vote by group text) that the Fall Fest offering would be used to give \$4,000.00 to Teen Challenge, and the remainder of the offering will be used to go towards the church’s purchase of a 15-passenger van. An anonymous donor has agreed to match donations up to \$20,000.00. Sonya also stated that one of RECC’s supported missionaries has reached out asking for more financial support. The M/O board would like to revisit how RECC supports our current missionaries. James Tang and Randy Bevis are currently paid through the Covenant denomination. Sonya suggested that there be a more personal connection with the missionaries we support. There was discussion on how the established Mission Fund could have a policy set up on how to market and distribute funds.

**Deacon Board Update:** Randy Prachar stated there was nothing of note at this time.

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Dave Anderson stated that Brian Anderson had applied for a grant to get AEDs, but the grant was not approved. However, LifeCare hospital did graciously supply RECC with an AED. The Trustees will decide the location of the AED and Dave will coordinate training in how to use the AED.

Tony presented a document of RECC regarding our church’s Mission, Values, Vision and Statements of Faith which will be discussed at a later meeting.

The Quarterly Congregational meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November

Sonya Peterson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Kelly Christianson seconded. Randy Prachar closed in prayer.