



May 10, 2021 FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING INUTES

Present (via Zoom)

Pete Bredlau, Pat Friedell, Erik Hjelmstad, Dave Huston, Cathie John, Marcus Kochis, JanLarson, Suzanne Miller, Ed Weaver, Pastor Travis Norton, Harry Mosco

Absent

None

Opening

The regular meeting of the First Lutheran Church council was called to order by Vice President, Cathie John, at 7:01 pm.

Devotions (Cathie John)

Cathie read from Jesus in Blue Jeans, a book by Laurie Beth Jones. It was reflected upon that Jesus lived the answer, not the question. Further reflection was upon a statue of Jesus with the hands broken off. We are reminded that we are His hands.

Approval of Minutes

Corrected inutes to Minutes in title

Date of welcoming new members corrected to April 25

Regarding the Bylaws for the InFaith Giving Endowment Fund, the statement regarding funds used not affecting the principal was removed.

*****COUNCIL APPROVED THE MARCH 8 MEETING MINUTES*****

Finance Committee Report (Erik Hjelmstad)

- The Finance Committee met on May 10 to review the April Financial Statements. Items of note: (1) Pledges down but still up for the year. Ahead of budget and last year. (2) Operating reserves of \$50,000 to be used for purchase of 1-year CDs. Also, to occur next year. (3) The Peel House account continues to do well with \$700,000 to be spent. Collecting approximately \$60,000 per month. Will not need to access loan until perhaps June. Will need to extend the length of the draw beyond July 8 with the projected completion date of the project July 18.
- Erik presented the final draft of the bylaws for the InFaith Giving Endowment Fund. We were able to review section 5, Allocations and Distributions from The Endowment Fund, on our own prior to the meeting. A section 5.7. was added in the event that market conditions might not allow a distribution in a given year. Council will most likely vote to approve the bylaws at the June meeting. Erik will run the document by the representative from InFaith Giving prior to our next meeting.

*****COUNCIL APPROVED THE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT THE MARCH FINANCIALS*****

Senior Pastor Report

- Pastor Travis asked council to vote to formally accept new members from April 25.

COUNCIL APPROVED.

- Regarding BASIC Training, the S is wrapping up, the I will be beginning as a summer sermon series.

- Synod assembly: Within the Synod assembly, racism was a prevalent theme. An election was held for the 2022 assembly voting members and Synod Vice President.

- Pastor Travis met with Mark Mahler and Eric Wicks who have approached Dave Weesner for his expertise with regard to capital improvements within the sanctuary. Items mentioned during our council meeting were again keeping the height of the altar with the use of a lift or ramp to allow the pastors access while making the rail accessible without a step, LED architectural walls, changing the brick to improve the appearance. These changes would also involve shortening the cross and perhaps moving some of the stained-glass symbols up. In other areas of the sanctuary, clerestory clear or white glass would replace the yellow glass high on either side of the sanctuary, and the back-exit area would be made more attractive... perhaps with stained glass. The conversation will continue with plans to present to the congregation along with a budget at October ministry gatherings.

- Worship changes in June will include livestream of Sunday morning 9:30 services. There will no longer be a recording. Barbara will edit the services, and they will also be available with focus on YouTube and on the app.

- Pastor Travis mentioned baptisms performed recently (two of Pat and Dan's grandsons). Pastor also mentioned he and Pastor Carrie sharing funeral duties, which are a priority and have been numerous. May have to take a look at staffing in the future in order to not be over extended.

Old Business

- Ed Weaver gave an update on Peel House progress. We are just over 60 days from completion, and the project is 66% complete. Ed said, "You can tell the house feels happy." The elevator cab will arrive between May 26 to June 12. There are 60 pending change orders, but they are minor items. Contingencies okay for now. The latest date for the transformer relocation with resultant down time is between May 13 and May 17. This is in the city's hands. The fireplaces are a work in progress. These were not included in original scope. Ongoing noticeable finishes include tile work, fixtures, drywall. Working on reducing noise in staircase. Also adding insulation to reduce noise from the youth center. Work continues on decorating items and safe appearance.

- Worship in the sanctuary update covered partly in Pastor Travis' report and partly in new business.

New Business

- Capital improvements covered in Pastor Travis' report.

- Covid response with regard to worship: On June 6, propose to increase capacity of worship services to 150. Also remove staggered seating. We will continue to mask, commune from pews, and enjoy fellowship outdoors. Council discussed giving Pastor Travis and the staff authority to decide when to allow communion at the rail once again when deemed safe. Allow adult seminar to begin meeting in the library or worship center. Begin children's sermons and children's church outdoors. Upgrade HVAC based on

recommendations. An iWave air purifier will be installed in the air handler for the sanctuary. It is reasonably priced, \$1,500, easy to install, and will rid the air of pollutants including viruses and bacteria.

Reminders

Next month's meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2021, at 7:00 pm, and Pete Bredlau is scheduled to give the devotion.

"Last Chance" Updates

- Cathie will be absent from the July 12 council meeting.
- Suzanne agreed to prepare devotions for July meeting (Cheryl was scheduled prior).
- Pastor Travis shared that Sam's central line has dislodged and will be removed. The plan is to try a new medication. It will take 2 to 3 weeks of monitoring with hopeful success. Prayers for Sam and family.

Adjournment with Prayer - Pastor Travis 8:06 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Friedell

Pat Friedell
Secretary