MINUTES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
on Thursday May 16th, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Vision Statement: *Peace Lutheran Church is a welcoming, worshipping and witnessing community in Jesus Christ through whom healing, wellness, love and peace are offered unconditionally to all.*

Mission Statement: *Celebrating and Sharing God's Love for All.*

ATTENDANCE:
In-person (Hern Room): Rosie Lantzsch (Co-chair), Sirkka Taylor (Co-chair), Fiona Haapalehto (Secretary), Analisa Chand, Kavita Kanavalli, David Wishart, Shakura Persaud, Rainer Knabenschuh, and Pastor Ronnie Smith.

Via Zoom: Sunny Wishart (Treasurer)

Regrets: Cameron Ylimaki
Congregational Members: Jeremy West
Guests: Tracy Grieg, CEO, Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation
& Tristina Sinopoli, SHS Consulting,

The email motion held between Council meetings is documented at the conclusion of the meeting minutes.

1. **Call to Order: Rosie** called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
2. **Opening: Fiona** did the opening devotion**. Rosie** will do it for the next meeting.

The meeting started with the presentation from Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation – see agenda item 6. a.

3. **Approval of the Agenda:**
   Moved by: Fiona, seconded by: Analisa
   THAT the agenda for Thursday, May 16th, 2024, be approved.
   Discussion: None. **CARRIED**

4. **Approval of the Previous Minutes:**

   Moved by: Sirkka, seconded by: Analisa
   THAT the Minutes of the Church Council Meeting held on April 18, 2024, as amended, be approved. Discussion: Rosie requested that the Treasurer's Report in the minutes be amended to reflect that the business manager at the CIBC was not available and it took some time to add Sirkka to the bank account. **CARRIED.**

5. **Treasurer's Report**
   - Signatories are updated with CIBC: Rosie, Fiona, Sirkka and Sunny
   - $1,849 came in towards the veggie garden.
   - Janitorial services appear higher than normal as explained by Toni: "Janitorial expense includes 2 months to align cost with month incurred. There were 5 cleans in April and therefore a change in price highlighting the timing difference.".

- We are 64% of our entire year projected deficit, and we're 33% of the way into the year. However, this is likely due to Toni (our bookkeeper) tidying up our expenses into the proper months, therefore we've had a few incidences where expenses are high merely on paper. The good news is our accounting is on route to being tidied up!

Moved by: Rainer, seconded by: Sirkka
THAT the April Financial Statements, be approved. Discussion: Rosie asked for an additional comparison on the quarterly reports to compare this year to last year. David mentioned inflation may be making it hard to compare year over year. An additional comparison might be to look at what if we did nothing. Donor fatigue is happening because prices are going up at a faster rate than individual income is increasing. David will research and, if appropriate, provide an article for the newsletter to educate our members.
Sunny clarified that the Summer Intern will have to go on Ceridian payroll. David confirmed. He also confirmed that the grant will be received later to offset the salary. **CARRIED.**

6. **New Business:**
   a. **Presentation from Tracy Grieg – Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation**
      - A few points from the meeting & presentation:
        - Mayor Kevin Ashe referred DRNPHC to Peace.
        - Tracey is the CEO of the DRNPHC and Tristina works for the consulting firm SHS Consulting. They have partnered for many years on a number of non-profit housing projects that include 17 townhouse and apartment complexes in Durham Region at market rate and below market rate rents - approximately 1200 rental units.
        - DRNPHC is a private firm and not part of the Durham Region government.
        - They provided a handout to the members of Council to provide background on the organization, their methodology when starting a new project and examples of the variety of housing options their organization is currently managing. They answered preliminary questions from those present.
        - The next steps for the Council will be to consult on the criteria we need to decide on whether we move continue researching the option to redevelop the property, and the criteria to choose between Kindred Works and DRNPHC.

Tracy Tristina and Jeremy left the meeting after consideration of this item.

   b. **Using remaining funds from the Peace Vegetable Garden**
      Jan reported that there is $900 left over since prices went down after the grant request was submitted and we received discounts from several businesses.
      One option is to use the funds to offset costs for the Memorial Garden. If this is chosen the expense form will need to change to read Peace Gardens instead of Veggie Garden. Rosie asked those present for their opinions.

      - Sunny said the grant was intended for food and we could contact the City for advice on how to use the surply. It was suggested we give them three options.
      - Kavita suggested if we have to report on the grant next year and how we used it we could be found to be in breach of the funding agreement if we did not use it for the Veggie Garden.
      - We could park the funds

- Analisa asked if we could use it to pay the water bill/ Sirkka suggested we get another rain barrel? Both of these things would contribute to the health of the Veggie Garden.
- Moving forward we want to change the line item on the budget to Peace Gardens. For this year we should keep the grant money in a line item called Veggie Garden.

c. Battery Operated Candles to avoid wax in pews

- Fiona reported that 10 dozen candles for the Christmas Candlelight service from Temu could be as little as $240 plus tax plus batteries. Batteries would need to be removed for annual storage and put back in time to use for next Christmas.
- If we decide to go forward, this expense should come out of W&A budget
- The most problematic candles are the ones in the Advent wreath that results in wax on the Altar carpet next to the pulpit.
- It was suggested we put a plastic runner or piece of carpet under the Advent Wreath
- The pews are getting marred from wax that results from inattentive people dropping wax during the Christmas Candlelight service. If we opt to redevelop the property the state of the pews are not going to matter.
- The consensus seemed to be to use plastic under the Advent Wreath and giving instruction to reduce wax spills in the pews during the Christmas Candlelight service.

d. Renting the Church to a Montessori School

- Two groups have approached the church.
- Rental to a school would displace some of the programs/renters we currently have. DARS programs are in their infancy.
- They seem to approach struggling churches, they are a for-profit operation, not in keeping with our mission.
- It would require construction inside and out and likely to require a reduction in the number of parking spaces.
- If we decide to redevelop, it is easer to relocate existing renters.

e. Donation/Income from Durham Youth Services

- Durham Youth Services currently hold meetings at the church at no cost as a way for PLC to support at-risk youth in the region. DYS converted their meeting rooms into an apartment that houses 2 youth.
- They are in a position to help us with the expense of damage to our rear door.
- They received an unsolicited donation they would like to pass on. We shouldn't judge how they use their money.
- Technically they offered to pay rent in appreciation for the space we have shared with them.

7. Old Business:

a. Community Conversation – Jennifer Hoover

- June 6, 6:00pm was set as a tentative date – this may be too soon
- Purpose is to find out the needs of the community – and to invite internal and external folks
- Instead, could this be a town hall for the congregation to vision what we could do with the property to further our ministries
- Could we ask Jennifer what the 5 question are that we need to answer in the session.

- Rosie would like to call her to clarify. Pastor Ronnie and Fiona will be included in the call.

b. New Headshots for Website

- Steven is ready to do this any time. This will be scheduled for the next Council meeting.

c. Mission Grants

- One grant request was submitted for the tech team. We will find out later this month.

d. Technology Update – David

- No major changes.
- Added the web developer job description to the website.

e. Student Application Update/Canada Summer Jobs

- Approximately 25 applications were received for the web developer position.
- Fiona, Shari and Pastor Ronnie reviewed the applications and interviewed potential candidates. We made a job offer to one of the candidates. The start date will be June 4.

f. Redevelopment- Kindred Works Feasibility Study – status

- Still in process.

8. Correspondence

a. The Eastern Synod benevolence commitment statement was received.

b. Pastor Ronnie completed the Police incident report on the damage to the back door.

9. Reports:

- **Olive Branch (verbal report -Rosie)**
  - Thanks to the Wisharts for the donation of a table at the OB Gala. Ten members of PLC were able to attend. Thanks to Pastor Ronnie for providing transportation.
  - Deborah's visit on May 5th was impactful.
  - Kirsten did a powerful testimonial the week after and Fiona is scheduled to deliver one this Sunday.
  - There already have been good donations so far this year.

- **Property (reported submitted by email-Tapio) (Liaison Rainer)**

  FYI – Jeremy West will be away June 4 to 6 and June 11 to 23.

  Old Items:

  Parking lot – plans to repave, repair and/or line painting of the parking lot continue to be on hold. ***No change in status.***

  Pit Drain – Obtaining an estimate for the replacement 1" drain pipe with a 3" one is still pending.

  No change in status.

  Clean-Up Day – There was good turnout for the May 4th spring clean-up. Lynne H, Janet V, Ana-Lisa C, Rosie L, Elizabeth J, Karen B, Fiona H, Rainer K, Cameron Y, Jeremy W and Tapio H. About 90% of tasks were completed, Tapio is hoping the remaining ones will be completed by June 2nd.

  Rodents – Three more mice have been trapped in the kitchen between April 21st and May 12th. To date no mice have been trapped in the pantry. A total of 6 trapped since the Feb 8th public health inspection report of droppings. In the event another mouse is trapped or the discovery of mouse droppings, Tapio will arrange for a pest control company.

  Lawn care – Fernie Works' first of the twelve 2024 contracted bi-weekly grassing mowing is scheduled for May 16th or May 17th.

New Items:

Basement Door Vandalized & Inoperative from the outside

On Friday May 10th at 5 am, a young man attempted to break in through the basement doors using the steel bar normally used to lock up the shed. He picked up the bar which was placed the day before to hold down a tarp covering a pile of soil for the Veggie team to place into the planters on Saturday May11th.

The man broke both door handles while trying to pry open the doors. In his attempt, the door security sensor set off the alarm. When contacted by Telus, Rosie L could see this man trying to break in on the security camera. Telus dispatched a security guard to investigate. He arrived around 5:40 am and reported not finding anyone in or around the building.

Around 1pm, Pastor Ronnie arrived to investigate. He inspected the damage and found the doors could not be opened from the outside. He took some initial pictures.

Jeremy contacted Rivett Architecture to order replacement door handles and sent pictures. Rivett has them in stock but they are unable to schedule someone to install them until around the end of the month. They estimate the cost for parts and labour to be $1,165 plus HST.

Jeremy contacted DARS. Two DARS representatives reviewed the security video and could not identify the vandal as a DARS client. DARS agreed to report the vandalism/attempted break-in. The police said the report had to come from the building owner so no police report was made. Jeremy and Tapio are not considering filing an insurance claim unless the replacement cost increases dramatically

Jeremy came to let in the AA group and tried to locate the steel bar, which has not been located. Our new member Bruce Metzger offered to build a replacement steel bar for the shed door and make shed door repairs. He hopes to complete the work on May 17.

Update: Bruce completed work on the shed door.

Jeremy and Pastor are ensuring renters can access the building through the front door.
It was also discovered that at the same time the vandal also damaged the screen to the Super Sophia storage room. Since this window is never used there is no need to replace it.

DARS Pantry Locks – Jeremy installed locks on the two doors to the pantry. One lock requires a key and the other one is a sliding bolt lock on the inside of the door. DARS has one key and a key has been placed in the office key cabinet.

Boiler – Jeremy turned off the boiler on the last Sunday in April.

Flowerbeds & Memorial Garden – Elizabeth Johns and Karen Bunbury have and continue to plant flowers and shrubs in the north-east flowerbeds and memorial garden along with weeding. Tapio is seeking 4 hours of weeding service from Fernie Works to help Elizabeth complete the initial spring preparation of the memorial garden but to date they have not responded.

Lawn Mowers & Event BBQ – Two old gas lawn mowers stored in the shed are being donated to DARS for use at their farmhouse. They have not been used since 2014 or earlier. The event BBQ in the shed was offered to DARS but it was found to be in rough shape and was placed out for collection.

Raccoons – Security cameras are capturing raccoons visiting the front porch and property about twice a week for the past 4 weeks. No evidence of them breaking into the roof but Tapio will continue to monitor.

- **Worship & Arts: (Rosie/Fiona/Pastor)**
  - The committee met on May 15.
  - AMs will lead the Service of the Word during Pastor Ronnie's vacation in August. Pastor subscribed us to the Summer Sermon Series from the Synod so the sermons can be broadcast.
  - Kirsten will be away two Sundays in July/August and Elenor Petras will fill in on organ.
  - Analisa's nephew would like to preach one Sunday while Pastor Ronnie is away – approved.
  - The next meeting is June 26.
- **Mutual Ministry: (verbal report -Fiona)**
  - A support meeting was held with Pastor Ronnie.
  - Fiona and Shari have been working with Pastor Ronnie on hiring our Summer Intern. A candidate has been selected and we are waiting to hear if they will accept.
- **Congregational Life: (report -Sirkka)**

Rosie and Sirkka have been reorganizing the church kitchen.

- The refrigerator has been cleaned out.
- Expired food has been disposed of
- We have started to reorganize the cupboards
- Appliances that have not being utilized in the last 10 years will be donated
- We are trying to relocate as many of the church Items that are in the food pantry to the kitchen as we can. The storage room for Sunday School could be cleaned out to make space.

The pot luck for Debra McCracken on May 5th was a success. It was wonderful to hear Debra speak about all the wonderful things that have been happening at the Olive Branch.

May 22nd: Senior's lunch
June 2nd: PLC Spring concert
June 30th: Strawberry Social
July 28th: Sunday sundae
August 25th: Watermelon party
September 18: Senior's Lunch
September 28th or October 5th: Oktoberfest
November ?: International Potluck lunch

- **Pastor's Report**

DURHAM MULTIFAITH COMMUNITY

On Saturday, June 1st at 2pm Peace will be participating in the Prayer For World Peace Multifaith Service at the Sankat Mochan Hanuman Mandir & Cultural Centre.

OLIVE BRANCH GALA

12 People from Peace, including myself, attended the Olive Branch Gala in Vaughn. Thanks so much to Sunny and A La Carte Financial for sponsoring a table!

The youth group is interested in making a trip to Tanzania to experience the Olive Branch first hand.

AFFIRMING WORSHIP DURHAM

At the World Religion Day at the Whitby Public Library I met Don Fry, Chairman for Affirming Worship Durham. They are engaging with faith communities to grow their network of safe worship spaces for LGBTQ+ communities in Durham. I've asked for Peace to be added to their list.

OUTREACH

- A delegation of five from Peace met with MP Jennifer O'Connell to follow up with her after receiving the Canada Summer Jobs grant. We also explored ways in which we can help each other serve the community. She agreed to identify programs and resources that align with our values and take steps towards meeting our priorities. Stay tuned.

We have begun interviews for the position, many candidates applied and we are hopeful we will get a quality candidate.

- With the Community Development Council Durham and DARS we held a movie screening of *Us and Them*, A Canadian documentary about homeless in British Columbia. It was a great opportunity to meet new people in our community. Our hosts were very gracious in praising Peace and myself which enhances our "brand" in the community.

YOUTH

We will be meeting on the last Sunday of every month to connect with youth and to coordinate activities. We have four campers going to Camp Lutherlyn this year. There is interest in additional camping trips, as well as mission work at Olive Branch.

We've also connected with another local youth leader for advice as well as opportunities to participate in various youth events in our area.

INDIGENOUS CANADA STUDY/ELCIC CIRCLE FOR RECONCILIATION:

I continue to facilitate the Indigenous Canada Study once per month through The Eastern Synod's Circle For Reconciliation. The themes for the module this month is Indigenous Teaching and Learning. Next month will look at traditional economies.

I have commissioned a medicine wheel by local Indigenous artist Candyse Flagler. We will be unveiling it in the sanctuary on June 9th. We will be working together on crafting a service dedicated to Truth and Reconciliation.

AREA DEAN/SYNOD CONVENTION:

I have registered for the Synod Convention in June at a cost of $750. I still need to reserve a room at the hotel.

I have been having some conversation/communication with other churches/clergy but nothing formal is planned at this time.

REDEVELOPMENT:

Will have Tracy Greig from Durham Region Non-Profit Housing attend our May council meeting to discuss options around redevelopment.

CHURCH SERVICES:

- Special Services: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

- Weekly sermon preparation, reading, writing, collegial discussions.

- Produce/coordinate services, order of service, full and concise versions. Excel sheet for use by the Tech Team, help coordinate volunteers/worship assistants, live stream uploads and distribution, tech support, etc.

- Music Team rehearsal each Sunday, hymn selections.

- Introducing a lot of material from All Creation Sings.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Email, phone calls, zoom calls, texts, social media posts, visitations, newsletter/gratitude corner submission, review of Synodical and National church communications, PLC APP management, website management, etc.

OFFICE:

- Duties include financial records management/assistance, answer phones, checking mail, and distributing newsletters to congregation members, management of rental arrangements for parking and building, etc.

- I've been working to update our email contact lists.

10. **Closing Prayer: Fiona** did the closing prayer.
11. **Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:43p.m.**

Next Regular Council Meeting **– Thursday, June 20th, 2024, 7:00 pm via hybrid Zoom & in person model.**

Online Votes held between Council Meetings:

1. Approval of the Q1 Financial Summary Statement

Background:

The Q1Finanical Summary Statement was not provided with the March Financial Statements. Sunny sent it to the Council after the April meeting.

It was moved by ***Fiona Haapalehto****, seconded by* ***Analisa Chand,***
"That the Q1 Financial Summary Statement be approved."

Discussion: *None****. CARRIED***

Fiona, Analisa, Cameron, Kavita and Sirkka voted to approve. Approval for the amended motion was given April 21, 2024.