MINUTES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
on Thursday Jun 20th 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, Rainer Knabenschuh, Shakura Persaud and David Wishart.

Via Zoom: Sunny Wishart (Treasurer), Cameron Ylimaki,

Regrets: Pastor Ronnie Smith -attending the Synod Convention
Congregational Members: Shari Nelson **Guests:** None

Email motions held between Council meetings, if any, are documented at the conclusion of the meeting minutes.

1. **Call to Order: Rosie** called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.
2. **Opening: Rosie** did the opening devotion**. Analisa** will do it for the next meeting.
3. **Approval of the Agenda:**
   Moved by: Kavita, seconded by: Sirkka
   THAT the agenda for Thursday, June 20th, 2024, be approved.
   Discussion: None. **CARRIED**

4. **Approval of the Previous Minutes:**
   Moved by: Rainer, seconded by: Analisa
   THAT the Minutes of the Church Council Meeting held on May 16th, 2024, be approved.
   Discussion: None. **CARRIED.**

5. **Treasurer's Report**
   - Durham Youth Services gave us $1200 which was applied towards the door repair. The repair came to $1214.75.
   - Taskco has advised that they will be raising their prices by 25% effective the end of June.
   - Tithe.ly is really gaining in usage!
   - The Olive Branch also received a significant amount in May.
   - Have left Outreach - Veggie Garden label as is.
   - Pastor Ronnie has gotten approval for a mission grant for a new mixer in the tech booth, recommending that we re-open the W&A Tech category under Special Purpose funds to track the expenses and grant reimbursement. Further recommending that we leave this account open for potential future grants.
   - *Note from grant approval - "Approved funding in the amount of $3,959.52 has been allocated to support your Technology Upgrade project. Payment will be forwarded to you after submission of a receipt(s) for work completed. The conditions for the receipt of these funds are as follows:*
     1. that they be used solely for the use that was described in your project proposal.

2. that your organization submit a report by September 30, 2024, outlining the use of these program funds"

Moved by: Fiona seconded by David:
THAT the W&A Tech Category under Special Purpose Funds, be re-opened to manage the mission grant and expenses. Discussion: None **CARRIED.**

Moved by: Shakura, seconded by Cameron
THAT the May Financial Statements, be approved. Discussion: None **CARRIED.**

6. **New Business:**
   a. **Hope on Wheels – Salvation Army**
   Through DARS Pastor Ronnie was contacted by James Dark of the Salvation Army. DARS suggested Peace might be willing to donate our parking lot as a permanent location for their weekly Food Truck program. The food truck feeds the underhoused in Durham but they need a central, accessible location to park the truck each Tuesday 5:30-6:30, for that purpose. It would be a year-round program. They do not need access to our building as they bring the food, water, garbage and recycling bins, and clean up anything that has been left behind before they leave. They would like to start on June 25th.

Moved by: Analisa Seconded by Shakura:
THAT the Salvation Army be permitted to use our parking lot on Tuesdays between 5:30-6:30pm to feed the underhoused of Durham. Pastor Ronnie to work out the details of the agreement to begin on June 25. Discussion: Their clients are our clients. It seems consistent with what we have been doing. They will need to ensure their program does not impede parking for the clients of the Dentistry Office across the street who rent spaces in our lot. We would like them to locate in the lower lot since DARS clients are familiar with this location. Maybe we should notify the City Councilor and the Police? We will ask James Dark if they have been well received elsewhere –**CARRIED.**

   b. **Discussion on Pastor's Move to Waterloo**

Moved by: David Seconded by Shakura:
THAT Pastor Ronnie be permitted to work an extra day from home starting in September, to be assessed in February, 2025.
Discussion: A discussion was held and further clarification will take place at the July Council meeting. **CARRIED**

Shari Nelson left the meeting at this point.

   c. **Affirming Worship Durham**
   Pastor Ronnie was in touch with Don Fry of Affirming Worship Durham at the Durham Multifaith Community World Religion Day in January. He asked about adding PLC to the roster of safe worship spaces in Durham. We will invite him to speak to us at our September meeting. Cameron will get in touch with him and report back. He will let us know if they want to present to the Council and/or the congregation.

7. **Old Business:**
   a. **Mission Grant for church A/V/Streaming**
   - We received the funds from the Synod to update our mixer. APEX and Cameron installed the new mixer.

- They also acquired a box for the organ to balance the sound and remove the hum that has been happening.
- Some adjustments are still needed to resume livestreaming in two Sundays.
- We do need to report back to the Synod – see the Treasurer's Report.

b. Technology Update – Summer Intern

- The successful candidate, Aaron Xie, started June 4.
- David met with him and he is working with the Tithe.ly tech team. Aaron is working on the Search Engine Optimization. He is coming in Tuesdays and Thursdays on site and working remotely the other days.
- We need more people going on Google to rate PLC to give good reviews. Cameron is willing to help people leave reviews.
- While Ronnie is off for his surgery David will schedule some time connecting with Aaron.

c. Redevelopment Initiative - Community Conversation– Questions & Comparison

- Jennifer Hoover has sent a comparison document that compares various aspects of the organizations Kindred Works and Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation.
- She also sent a series of questions for the Council.
- Council will record our thoughts about these questions and we can discuss them at a meeting after church in two weeks (due July 5). Look up any terms you don't understand.

d. Redevelopment- Kindred Works Feasibility Study – status

- Still in process.

8. Correspondence

a. None.

9. Reports:

- **Olive Branch (verbal report -Rosie)**
  - Kirsten, Fiona and Rosie provided testimonials in May.
  - We have received donations in excess of our goal for 2024.

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

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.

Rodents – No mice have been trapped in the 2 kitchen and 1 pantry trap since May 12th. To date no mice have been trapped in the pantry. Tapio will continue to monitor.

Lawn care – Fernie Works' first of the twelve 2024 contracted bi-weekly grassing mowing was performed on May 16th.

Basement Doors Vandalized – Rivett Architecture replaced both broken basement door handles on May 23 and charged $1,075 plus HST for parts and labour. It was $90 less than the initial estimate of $1,165 plus HST.

Bruce Metzger made a replacement steel bar for the shed door and installed it on May 16th.

Raccoons – Security cameras continue to capture raccoons visiting the front porch and property at least twice a week. There is no evidence of them breaking into the roof but Tapio will continue to monitor.

New Items:

Window A/C Units – To free up storage space in the basement Sunday School room, Pastor Ronnie took to the dump two surplus window air conditioners along with various old craft items. In the past these two a/c units were used in upstairs windows. They were between 20 to 30 years old, in rough shape, noisy, smelly, not very energy efficient and only one of them has been used in the past 2-3 years. If needed, there are two standalone floor a/c units available and are currently stored in the Sacristy.

The two Fellowship Hall window units require replacement next spring if not earlier. Both of them are badly rusted, noisy, not energy efficient and are roughly 15-20 years old.

- **Worship & Arts: (Rosie/Fiona/Pastor)**
  - The committee will meet next on June 26.
  - Coverage for Pastor Ronnie's vacation and the two weeks he will be off for recovery from surgery will be discussed. Analisa will do the service August 18.
  - Cameron will touch base with Pastor Ronnie about the tech team tiles while he is off.
- **Mutual Ministry: (verbal report -Fiona)**
  - A support meeting was held with Pastor Ronnie, following his announcement that he will relocate his residence to Waterloo.
- **Congregational Life: (report -Sirkka)**

  May 22nd: Senior's lunch was attended by 23 people. Anita's presentation on the mindfulness Practice/benefits was very well done. Thank you to Shakura, Shakura's friend, Jemina, Ann, Rosie and everyone who just jumped in to help.

  May 30th: Arthur Stefan's funeral. Thank you to Arnold, Shakura, Lynn, Rosie and Sirkka for setting up for the reception and doing the clean-up.

  June 2nd: The Spring Concert was a success, thanks to Gloria for being a great MC, Ekkhard and Joel for being stage managers, Cameron and Rahul for setting up the mics and running the stream, and Angelina for making the program and poster. The representative from Pickering GTA Music Festival really appreciated the donation.

  June 30th: Strawberry Social

  July 28th: Sunday sundae

  August 25th: Watermelon party

  September 18: Seniors Lunch, Sirkka has talked to Brenda Derdaele. She works for VON Hospice Services. Brenda would be willing to come and talk to us about self-advocacy and the services that are available. She is a family friend who helped the family when Sirkka's husband Tommy was palliative.

  Saturday October 5th: Gloria would like to verify that this date is good for the Oktoberfest,

  November ?: International Potluck lunch

- **Pastor's Report**

  Pastor is attending the Eastern Synod Assembly this week (Thursday, Friday & Saturday). He has also notified us that he is having surgery July 4 and will not be able to do the worship services for two weeks.

10. **Closing Prayer: Rosie** did the closing prayer.
11. **Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:15p.m.**

Next Regular Council Meeting **– Thursday, July 18th, 2024, 7:00 pm via hybrid Zoom & in person model. (This is Pastor Ronnie's 45th birthday)**

Online Votes held between Council Meetings:

None.