MINUTES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
on Thursday Jul 18th 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, Rainer Knabenschuh, Shakura Persaud, David Wishart, and Cameron Ylimaki. Pastor Ronnie Smith.

Via Zoom: Sunny Wishart (Treasurer),

Regrets: Kavita Kanavalli
Congregational Members: None **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 7:02 pm.
2. **Opening: Analisa** did the opening devotion**. Shakura** will do it for the next meeting.
3. **Approval of the Agenda:**
   Moved by: Cameron, seconded by: David
   THAT the agenda for Thursday, July 18 th, 2024, be approved.
   Discussion: None. **CARRIED**

4. **Approval of the Previous Minutes:**
   Moved by: Analisa, seconded by: Cameron
   THAT the Minutes of the Church Council Meeting held on June 20th, 2024, be approved.
   Discussion: None. **CARRIED.**

5. **Treasurer's Report**
   - 2023 Filings done and sent to CRA
   - Camp Lutherlyn cheque issued for 4 campers $375x4=$1500. $670 in FOF and rest from 2024 youth education budget.
   - The payroll for the summer intern has been posted to Intern expense and will be offset by the grant once received which will correct the YTD vs. budget. Sunny & Toni will confer about the method for recording the income for the summer intern.
   - Insurance renewal $10,380.96 for period of June 2024-June 2025. Rosie and Sunny discussed completion of the Insurance renewal forms. They agreed on a method to get the form completed.
   - Quarterly cheques issued to Food bank, Olive branch and CLWR.
   - Pastor & Sunny conferred on the payment for the new sound mixer – it is due soon and we will receive the grant money from the Synod to offset the purchase.

   Moved by: Rainer seconded by Sirkka:
   THAT the June Financial Statements, be approved. Discussion: None. **CARRIED.**

6. **New Business:**
   a. **Insurance Renewal – update from Bill Gregor**
      - Bill Gregor notified the Council that the insurance policy was renewed for another 12 months, June 30, 2024 to 2025. PLC has been with the same broker and insurance company for 28 years.
      - Premium: $9,612 plus tax of $ 768.96 for a total of $10380.96 ($9,477 -2024 premium)
      - This premium is 10% higher than last year's premium. The increase is composed of a 5% rate increase plus a 5% increase in the Property values / limits. Building & Contents. All other limits remain unchanged.
   b. **Bill Gregor**
      - Bill has notified the church that he is stepping down from his role working on the Insurance Renewals and preparation of the Annual Budget.
      - Council will start asking people to volunteer for one or both of these roles.
   c. **Tracking monthly rental receipts**
      - Bill Gregor also asked for clarification if DARS has paid their semi-annual rent which was due June 2024
      - Bill is asking who is responsible for tracking monthly rent receipts. Pastor Ronnie mentioned that our Financial Secretary tracks this and Pastor follows up late payments.
      - David suggested we investigate whether BREEZE has any reminder functionality. Pastor mentioned he and Steven go through the rentals monthly.
   d. **Church Fundraising proposal – Gala**
      - A proposal was made by David that we could consider a fundraiser to boost our income. Sirkka circulated a list of possible options. One may be a gala but event planning is hard and it would be difficult to hold an event that is focused on Peace. Our members are already giving so much. Could we partner with other organizations like Super Sophia or DARS?
      - We might be able to do some fundraising activities during our Octoberfest celebration October 5th . Sirkka will follow up with Gloria to check if she is amenable.
   e. **Youth Fundraising**
      - The youth would like to go to Tanzania. This will take a lot of funds. Analisa was asked to work with the youth to generate a fundraiser – car wash or bottle drive which might draw from the neighbourhood and not just PLC members.
   f. **New Rental Request – Shiloh Redemption**
      - We received a request from Shiloh to rent the Fellowship Hall every Sunday. Fiona sent them a number of questions for clarification of their needs. We haven't heard back yet.
   g. **Move Council meeting to Wednesday to accommodate Pastor Ronnie's new schedule.**
      - Starting in September Council agreed to move our Council meetings to Wednesday evenings. Pastor Ronnie expressed his appreciation.
   h. **Other**
      - Pastor will take next Wednesday instead of Friday off as his day off.
      - Pastor Rasma will cover pastoral emergencies while Pastor Ronnie is on vacation in August.

7. **Old Business:**
   a. **Affirming Worship Durham**
      - See update in Pastor's Report. Cameron is liaising with the organization.
   b. **Kindred Works Feasibility Study – next step**
      - Still in process. Pastor Ronnie will follow up to get the feasibility study completed.
      - Fiona to send to Pastor Ronnie the answers from the Council members to the questions from Jennifer Hoover. Pastor will send them to Jennifer.
   c. **Community Conversation – Jennifer Hoover**
      - Still outstanding.
   d. **Discussion on Pastor's Move to Waterloo**
      - A confidential discussion was held and all concerns were addressed.
      - Pastor Ronnie is optimistic our members will hopefully not experience a big change due to his change of residence.
   e. **Hope on Wheels – Salvation Army**
      - James Dark has indicated they didn't get the turn out they hoped for so on August 8 they will partner with DARS at the Thursday night dinner and promote their Tuesday food truck dinners.
   f. **Mission Grants**
      - Sunny will keep track and Pastor Ronnie will follow up until we receive the cheque.
   g. **Technology Update – David**
      - Our summer intern Aaron's tenure with us is up at the end of July.
      - Aaron supplied a progress report for the Council to outline the work he has completed. He is preparing a process manual for the person taking over from him. He will complete a list of volunteering opportunities at PLC. Rosie, Sirkka and Fiona met with him to provide details.
      - There is still more functionality we need in our website– i.e. an events application portal so people can apply for rentals online.
      - We still need to send out forms back to the government and hope to get the cheque.
8. **Correspondence**
   a. **None.**

9. **Reports:**
   - **Olive Branch (verbal report -Rosie)**
     - Rosie reported we have met our fundraising goal for this year. She is very appreciative to all those who donated.

   - **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. Due to summer vacations activity deferred to the fall.

     New Items:
     None.

- **Worship & Arts: (Rosie/Fiona/Pastor)**
  - Worship coverage for Pastor Ronnie's vacation has been arranged.
  - The next meeting will be held September 11, 2024.

- **Mutual Ministry: (verbal report -Fiona)**
  - None this month.

- **Congregational Life: (report -Sirkka)**
  - June 30th: Strawberry Social – we had approx. 40 people
  - July 28th: Sundae Sunday
  - August 25th: Watermelon party
  - September 18: Senior's Lunch
  - Saturday October 5th: Oktoberfest, the tickets will be adults $25.00 each and children under 13 $10.00 each. Wine will be included in the price and a free will tip for the beer. There will be no tickets sold at the door and no refund for no shows because the food has to be purchased for the number of people coming.
  - November ?: International Potluck lunch

- **Pastor's Report**

  EASTERN SYNOD CONVENTION

  This year's convention was the first in person gathering since before the pandemic. Overall, it was a very positive vibe, and you could tell people were glad to gather again. It was a great chance to connect with some old friends from around the synod.

  At this year's convention we elected Rev. Carla Blakely as our new bishop. Carla has spent her career in Saskatchewan and Manitoba and brings new energy and insights into the Eastern Synod. Based on the feedback I received from the people of Peace we voted to elect Carla.

  At the same time, we commemorated Bishop Michael Pryse's term in office, including premiering a musical piece composed by our good friend Trevor Hicks. Several people from Peace contributed to the project and it was well received.

  Trevor was also the Music Director for the convention, and I very much enjoyed playing percussion with him and the other convention musicians. It was a special moment when we played our beloved Peace Be With You as a part of one of the convention services.

  Another special event was celebrating Bethan's ordination. Each newly ordained pastor was invited to address the assembly. It was so great to see/hear her, we're all so proud of her!

  Lastly, I'd like to thank Peace for sending me to represent our congregation, it was very nourishing and life giving. I was so encouraged to hear about many different perspectives and ministry contexts at work across the synod. We heard powerful message from our partner churches in Guyana and the Holy Land, Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Martin Luther University College (our seminary) and many more! I'm really looking forward to the next one!

  AFFIRMING WORSHIP DURHAM

  An invitation has been extended to Don Fry from Affirming Worship Durham to attend our September council meeting. We are awaiting confirmation.

CAMP LUTHERLYN
4 campers from Peace attended Camp Lutherlyn's Confirmation Camp in July. 1 Youth from Peace is a camp counselor this year.

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.

CHURCH SERVICES:
- 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.

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.

Rosie/Fiona will pick up the mail in August. Ronnie will send out instructions for picking up voicemail remotely.

10. **Closing Prayer: Analisa** did the closing prayer.
11. **Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:55p.m.**

Next Regular Council Meeting **– Thursday, August 15th, 2024, 7:00 pm (if needed) via hybrid Zoom & in person model. If a meeting is not held in August, the next meeting will be Wednesday, September 18th, 2024**

Online Votes held between Council Meetings:

None.