MINUTES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
on Wednesday Oct 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, Shakura Persaud and Cameron Ylimaki, David Wishart, Pastor Ronnie Smith.

Via Zoom: Sunny Wishart (Treasurer), Kavita Kanavalli.

Regrets: Rainer Knabenschuh,
Congregational Members: none
Guests: Don Fry – Affirming Worship Durham

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 7:09 pm.
2. **Opening: Shakura did an opening prayer. Rosie will do the devotional for the next meeting.**
3. **Approval of the Agenda:**
   Moved by: Analisa, seconded by: Sirkka
   THAT the agenda for Wednesday, October 16th, 2024, as amended, be approved.
   Discussion: None. **CARRIED**

4. **Approval of the Previous Minutes:**
   Moved by: Cameron, seconded by: Sirkka
   THAT the Minutes of the Church Council Meeting held on September 18th, 2024, be approved, as amended. Discussion: None. **CARRIED.**

5. **Treasurer's Report**

   Sunny provided her Treasurer's Report, the September Financials, the Q3 Financial Summary and a report from the CCCC on Gifts in Kind donations.

   - W&A Tech has a balance of $3,959.52, the grant has arrived and was deposited in Oct.
   - The intern grant ($5200) arrived and was deposited, it'll be on the October financials.
     - Keep in mind that these 2 grants total $9,100 that will be reflected in Oct.
   - Phillip Walke has advised that he would be sending receipts for computers and TV's that he purchased for the church. He mentioned that he would like receipts for tax purposes.
   - From Mandi Walker – Synod Treasurer:
   - *I have attached a brief document from the Canadian Council of Christian Charities that describes how to issue a Gift-In-Kind donation receipt. In addition to the usual receipt contents, you will need to include the following information:*

- *Description of property donated:*
- *Fair market value appraised by: name of person who appraised the value of the gift*
- *Address of appraiser: address of individual named in previous line*
- *As the article indicates, you will need to retain documentation for all gifts-in-kind.*

- *One more thing - when completing your Annual Charity Information Return (T3010) you will need to indicate "Yes" for question C (Box 4000) and complete Schedule 5 for any gifts-in-kind received during the fiscal year being reported.*
- *As you will see, the process is a bit more complex than for a gift of cash.* ***You as the treasurer along with the rest of the council will have to determine if the proposed donation is worth the time and effort*** *of accepting such a donation. A person may also make a gift of property to the congregation with no expectation of a receipt, but if a tax receipt is expected by the donor, please make sure this is something that you want to undertake.*

- Council discussed this and agreed the existing procedure is preferred - to submit receipts for reimbursement, and donate the reimbursement back to the church to receive a conventional charitable receipt.
- It was noted that this type of acquisition must be subject to getting multiple quotes and presented to Council for pre-approval prior to the purchase.
- Not everyone received the financials. They were emailed to members during the meeting. Rosie asked that the motion to accept the report would be conducted via email.
- The Q3 report is to go out to the congregation.

6. Presentation by Don Fry – Affirming Worship Durham

- Don Fry returned to our meeting to complete the presentation he started last month about AWD and having PLC officially become an affirming congregation.
- For the benefit of those who missed the first half of the presentation, Don reiterated social statistics about the LGBTQSi community.
- Further, he mentioned there are many faith groups who have joined, not only Christan, but Jewish and Pagan.
- Becoming an AWD congregation works best if the whole church has ownership of the initiative. It is really important that everyone is on board so leadership can be sure of a warm reception to anyone from the LGBTQSi community.
- The congregation needs to be educated – bulletin board, newsletter articles, pride flags, external signage, brochure, statement of inclusion on letterhead. These are some examples followed by Westminster United Church.
- Outside the church -flags, banners, website content. Westminster has a Rainbow Bench which attracts people who are the LGBTQSi or allies.
- Involvement in pride parades, protests & community events.
- Some resources on the Anglican website – Open Hearts. Don highly recommended we consult these.
- After the presentation Council agreed we are already a welcoming church and that we will have further discussions about what measures we can take. Pastor Ronnie placed a poster

provided by Don in the window of the Hern Room facing Liverpool Rd as a first step to demonstrate we are a welcoming congregation.

- Sirkka mentioned that having a 30-45 min presentation at a Senior's lunch would be an option. She will discuss with Pastor and contact Don for a date in early 2025.

Don Fry left the meeting.

7. **New Business:**
   a. **Annual Congregational Picture.**
   Rosie circulated a congregational picture booklet from many years ago She noted we have not had a congregation directory in about 20 years. She would like to retake a congregational picture and potentially print a congregational directory.
   b. **Philip Walke – Tax Receipt for in-kind donation. (**See discussion in Treasurer's Report)

8. **Old Business:**
   a. **Lena & Joel Proposal – Volunteer Parish Worker position.**
      - New information was provided by Joel and Lena about how this arrangement would need to be set up to meet the federal regulations. Further discussions are needed with Lena due to the potential impact on the annual budget.
      - Rosie, Pastor and Fiona to follow up.
   b. **Affirming Worship Durham (**Don addressed the Council prior to New Business**)**
   c. **Kindred Works Feasibility Study – next step**
      - We have received word that this is underway and should be available in a few weeks. They will come to present it to us. Council decided to invite them to our December18th Council meeting, but to start at 6:00pm.
   d. **Community Conversation – Jennifer Hoover**
      - Still outstanding. Seems we shouldn't embark on this until we know what the feasibility study shows.
   e. **Mission Grants**
      - Cheque has been received.
   f. **Technology Update – David**
      - Cheque has been received.
   g. **Replacement for Bill Gregor (**Insurance Renewals and preparation of the Annual Budget)
      - Rosie advised that Tapio is willing to take on the Insurance portfolio.
      - She is still waiting to hear from the person who was asked to prepare our 2025 budget.
   h. **Church Fundraising proposal – Gala**
      - Defer to next meeting.
   i. **Youth Fundraising Proposal**
      - Defer to next meeting

9. **Correspondence**
   a. **None.**

10. **Reports:**
    - **Olive Branch (verbal report -Rosie)**
      - None.

- **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. Deferred to next spring.
  - **Pit Drain –** Obtaining an estimate for the replacement 1" drain pipe with a 3" one is still pending. Deferred to next spring.
  - **Fall Clean-up Day** – Saturday, October 19th, 9-12. The weather is forecasted to be ideal for the event. Also, Phil Plath will trim off dead and dying branches from the poplar tree at the west driveway ramp. With the help of Jeremy, Bruce and others we will load these branches onto Phil's trailer and be taken to the local dump**.**

  New items:

  - **Boiler** – Jeremy has turned on the boiler without any issues encountered.

- **Worship & Arts: (Rosie/Fiona/Pastor)**
  - No update

- **Mutual Ministry: (verbal report -Fiona)**
  - No update.

- **Congregational Life: (report -Sirkka)**
  - October 5th: Oktoberfest was amazing, everyone had a wonderful time. There were 35 people that paid and 29 were there. The 6 that could not make it received doggie bags and all the goodies except for the salad. The food was delicious and of course Gloria was very entertaining. There was a profit of $174.00, which will go into Congregational Life/Fellowship Fund.

  - October 23rd: Seniors' lunch
  - November 17th: International Potluck lunch
  - November 27th: Seniors' lunch
  - December 15th: Bake Sale

- **Outreach – Shari Nelson**
  - No update.

- **Pastor's Report**
  - **Pastoral Acts**
    - Funerals -2
    - Installation of Bishop Carla Blakely
    - Installation of Pamela Kormano at Faith Lutheran Church in Oshawa
  - **GTA EAST AREA DEAN**
    - Bishop Carla has been meeting with all Area Deans to learn about ministry around the synod. I met with her and an uplifting conversation about ministry values and objectives in the coming years.

- **REDEVELOPMENT**
  - We've had to be patient but our feasibility study is expected by November 26th. Jennifer would like to set up a meeting for the first week of December to go over the results. Any day that week except the 4th.
- **CLWR** –
  - We are still waiting for approval for Mansora's mother Qamar, whose documents have been mismanaged by the IRCC. Jennifer Ardon is working very hard to get these issues resolved.
- **DARS**
  - Farmhouse Opening
  - Weekly Community Dinners
  - Thanksgiving Drive
- **DURHAM MULTIFAITH COMMUNITY**
  - Quiet at the moment. World Religion Day is coming up in January.
- **AFFIRMING WORSHIP DURHAM**
  - Council met with Don Fry to learn more about how we can make Peace a welcoming and affirming congregation for the wider LGBT+ community. Our second meeting is at our October council meeting.
- **RENTALS**
  - We have been taking on additional rentals lately and we're pretty much at capacity. I am sad to note that Long & McQuade have found a new venue for their music recitals. Apparently, our lack of AC was a factor. In addition, they have found a place that will charge less than we do.
- **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.

11. **Closing Prayer: Shakura did the closing prayer.**
12. **Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:20p.m.**

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

Online Votes held between Council Meetings:

- *Not everyone received the September financials. They were emailed to members during the October meeting. Rosie asked that the motions to accept the report would be conducted via email.*

Moved by: Cameron, seconded by Sirkka,
THAT the September Financial Statements be approved. CARRIED

Moved by: Fiona, seconded by David,
THAT the Q3 Financial Statements be approved. Discussion: Rosie asked Sunny to fix a typo on the Q3 statement. CARRIED

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