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

Via Zoom: Sunny Wishart (Treasurer)

Regrets: Kavita Kanavalli,
Congregational Members: Bill Gregor, Jeremy West, Vlad Petras
Guests: Katja Brittian (Kindred Works), Jennifer Hoover (Eastern Synod via Zoom)

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 7:01 pm.
2. **Opening: Sirkka** did the opening devotion**. Fiona** will do it for the next meeting.

3. **Approval of the Agenda:**
   Moved by: Cameron, seconded by: Analisa
   THAT the agenda for Thursday, April 18th, 2024, be approved.
   Discussion: None. **CARRIED**

4. **Approval of the Previous Minutes:**
5. **Moved by: Rainer, seconded by: Analisa**
   THAT the Minutes of the Church Council Meeting held on March 21, 2024, be approved.
   Discussion: None. **CARRIED.**

6. **Treasurer's Report**
   - January and February financials have been updated with Family of Funds - Special Purpose Funds – Congregational Life, formerly Fellowship Fund.
     - Expenses have been drawn from this Special Purpose Fund and the Congregational Life on the General Fund page now has $0 usage of the $200 annual budget.
   - We have received an invoice from Copetti April 1st: $330 Dec. bookkeeping + $134 QBO 3 months of subscription +$780 to prepare the 2023 annual filings, which have not been signed off by me yet. I am still working with them to hand over the QBO subscription and answer a couple of 2023 review questions.
   - The GIC was renewed March 1, 2024, 1-year Flexible Term GIC at 4.25%
   - The $19K GIC comes up for renewal December 5, 2024
   - Quarterly cheques have been issued to the Dedicated Funds - CLWR, DARS, Olive Branch and St Paul's on the Hill Food Bank.

- There has been a delay in getting Sirkka added to the account at the CIBC as our account manager has left. Sunny will take this up with the manager.

Moved by: Sirkka, seconded by: Rainer
THAT the amended January & February Financial Statements, as amended, be approved, And THAT the March Treasurer Report and Financial Statements, be approved.
Discussion: Fiona reminded Sunny we had not received the Q1 Financial Report that is routinely sent to the Congregation**.** Sunny thanked her for the reminder and said she would send it asap.
CARRIED.

The Q1 report will need to be approved prior to distribution to the congregation.

Rosie asked Sunny to arrange for Sirkka to be added as a signatory on our bank account. Sunny reported that our account manager at the CIBC has moved on and she will contact them to name a new account manager for us to deal with. Then she will schedule a time for Sirkka to be added to the account. Rosie thanked Sunny.

7. **New Business:**
   a. **Criminal Records Check for members dealing with children & seniors**
      - Sirkka mentioned volunteers working with Youth/Children should get the Vulnerable Sector Records Check from their local Police Service. Fiona reported that with a Volunteer Letter from the Church the cost for the Durham Records Check is considerably less. Pastor Ronnie committed to produce the letters for the people involved. Analisa mentioned she had a current Check and would provide a copy to the office.
   b. **Donations (Bill Gregor)**
      - Bill addressed the Council on a concern. He has noticed historically when there is a financial appeal for organizations (dedicated funds) then donations for the church often take a hit. Dave suggested we ask ourselves to focus on what we are doing to grow the congregation and that will lead to additional donations so we can do it all.
   c. **New Headshots for Website**
      - Defer to next meeting.
   d. **Mission Grants**
      - We are trying for a few mission grants for youth ministry, etc.
   e. **DARS Food Pantry**
      - Rosie spoke to Shari from DARS who asked for locks on the two doors to the pantry.
      - A couple accessed the pantry and took a large amount of food well in excess of the limits that DARS places on users.
      - Pastor feels this is a service that needs to go through DARS.
      - Jeremy will install locks and create the keys.
   f. **Presence of a DARS Client in the building after hours.**
      - A DARS Client found his way back in the building after DARS had left. Motion alarms were tripped. DARS does escort him out and try to prevent him from staying behind. Pastor Ronnie does communicate with him. We will revisit this next month.

8. **Old Business:**
   a. **Technology Update – David**
      - David will tweak a few things and make it live. He thanked Ina for all her work in converting to the new website.

b. Student Application Update/Canada Summer Jobs - Benefits

- David and Pastor Ronnie are following up with the MP concerning the funding. This has been delayed.

c. Community Conversation

- Jennifer Hoover has offered to hold a Community Conversation in preparation for the redevelopment process. The idea is to gather input not only from the congregation but the broader community on how we could best use our property. This input would inform the design of our redevelopment. We will follow this up next month.

d. Redevelopment- Kindred Works Feasibility Study – next step

- Council received a presentation from Katja Brittian of Kindred Works on the organization, its business model and partners. She answered questions to clarify. Three members of the congregation were present for the presentation.
- She asked us "Can you as a congregation, live with something completely different on this site. Or does the church building remain intact and use the remainder of the property for redevelopment?
- After discussion it was determined that there is an understanding that if nothing is done in 5-10 years our congregation will not have the financial resources to maintain our aging building.
- The redevelopment model used by Kindred Works uses CMHC and Joint Venture funding. Our land is valuable, however, and this will be our investment in the project. No funding is required from members of PLC. The financial impact for us will be to find another location to worship until we can move into our new space.
- Jennifer Hoover, Eastern Synod Congregational Redevelopment Advisor, also answered questions and advised that the Synod has agreed to fund the Feasibility Study to be done by Kindred Works.
- The Feasibility Study is the first formal step in the redevelopment process and will tell us the maximum capacity our location can sustain. The City of Pickering will be reviewing and approving our redevelopment plan and will want the maximum amount of housing built.
- Given that there is a possibility that the City of Pickering may make part of the parking lot of the neighbouring Community Centre available for this project, the feasibility study needs to look at two scenarios: one where the City's parking lot land is incorporated and one where it is not.
- Katja mentioned that the model is to build 70% market rate units and 30% affordable housing units. This model ensures we achieve a community and not a ghetto, and that there is sufficient income to cover costs going forward, once the units are occupied. It also ensures there is an income stream for PLC.
- PLC will retain ownership of the land and the buildings on it, however responsibility for property maintenance will lie with Kindred Works.
- Jennifer will remain as our advisor through the process. Council acknowledged there are still many questions to be answered and members are asked to send their questions to Fiona who will collate them for Jennifer.

9. Correspondence

a. Benevolence Invoice from the Synod

b. Request for Synod Convention Volunteers June 20-22, 2024

10. Reports:

- **Olive Branch (verbal report -Rosie)**
  - Debra is coming May 5th - we will have an "elevated" potluck.
  - Members will deliver testimonials on upcoming Sundays.
- **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.***

DARS Appliances – DARS has decided to retain their old chest freezer in the pantry beside the kitchen. Jeremy has spoken to Marg & JP about monitoring power to the two fridge freezers and two chest freezers. As summer approaches, there is a possibility that one or more of the electric outlets may not be able to handle the current draw and trip circuit breakers.

They received a donated stove last week and donated it to PLC. On Sunday, April 14th, this new electric stove was installed in our kitchen and the old one was taken away.

Clean-Up Days – At the next two Sunday services, Tapio will announce the Spring clean-up date of Sat. May 4 @ 9am to noon with a rain-date of May11th and will post sign up task lists in the Narthex.

Rodents - One more mouse was found trapped in the kitchen on March 24th thus a total of 3 trapped since the health inspector reported finding droppings on Feb 8th.

New Items

Security – On Thursday evening after the DARS dinner and around Friday 3 am, Telus/ADT dispatched staff to investigate motion detection alarms. They found doors and windows secure and could see person(s) in the building via the windows. Jeremy was able to determine via security camera video that it was DARS's client Taylor – PLC 2022-2023 homeless person living in a tent on the property. DARS has been made aware of the situation this time and before but Taylor continues to sneak back in during their close-up/lock-up. There is a possibility Telus will bill PLC for one or both of these call outs thus Council needs develop an action plan on how to deal with his unauthorized access to the property in the future.

Ad Signs – On April 2nd (or the day before), without seeking prior permission C&R Paving placed an advertising sign on the grass near our church's sign. On that day, they sent an email to Tapio offering to do some free parking lot paving/repair in return for placing an ad lawn sign. Tapio responded to them saying he's out of the country until April 14th and will contact them later to discuss. When on April 4th, Tapio contacted Ronnie via email to inform him of this offer, he was surprised to learn Ronnie had found this sign on the grass. He took it down and stored it in his office. Also, Jeremy reported that the presence of their sign prompted 2 other companies to erect their own lawn signs. They have been taken down as well.

Jeremy and Tapio do not support advertising signs being erected on PLC property. On Friday, April 19th, Tapio will call C&R Paving to discuss our displeasure of their action and turn down their offer.

Lawn care – Today, Tapio received the renewal of our lawn care agreement with Fernie Works for this year at the same pricing as last year. After he has checked terms and conditions, he will sign and forward for payment processing.

- **Worship & Arts: (Rosie/Fiona/Pastor)**
  - Next meeting is May 15.
- **Mutual Ministry: (verbal report -Fiona)**
  - No report this month.
- **Congregational Life: (report -Sirkka)**

  Past Events

  - Mar 31st: Easter potluck breakfast, attended by 40 people. There was an amazing selection of food.
  - April 17th: Senior's lunch, attended by 19 people. Shirley did a wonderful presentation of her amazing quilts. She also did a draw for one of her quilts and Jemina won.
  - We will be re-organizing the kitchen cupboards. There is a lot of wasted space. Also, there is a lot of stuff that has not been used in many years, possibly time to purge. We could relocate our materials from the pantry into the kitchen.

  Upcoming Events

  - May 5th; Deborah McCracken
  - 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**

  AREA DEAN/SYNOD CONVENTION:

  - Area Dean meeting in May was postponed to the fall. Outgoing Bishop Michael Pryse decided it would be better for us to meet with the new bishop after the election at the synod convention. I have registered for the Synod Convention which takes place in June.

  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 was Indigenous concepts of law. Next month's theme is Indigenous Teaching and Learning.
  - 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.

  REDEVELOPMENT:

  - Representatives from council and myself met with Tracy Greig, Durham Region's CEO for Non-Profit Housing. In attendance were Mayor Kevin Ashe, Church Redevelopment Advisor Jennifer Hoover and Katja Brittian from Kindred Works.

- Tracy was very interested to see if there was a role for the region in our development plans. She may wish to give a presentation at our next council meeting or some other date.

YOUTH GROUP:

- Several members have stepped forward to express interest in growing a youth ministry at Peace. We have had a preliminary meeting and we will be having a brief follow up meeting following the Easter service. Our first project will be to coordinate our Camp Lutherlyn trip in the summer.
- We may schedule youth events for the last Sunday of every month to give consistency.

TECH TEAM:

- I have submitted the grant application to the Eastern Synod for review. We should be hearing from the Mission Committee any day now.

DARS:

- The warming centre has gone as well as we could have expected, with the occasional hiccup. DARS has proven to be a trustworthy and reliable ministry partner serving the most vulnerable in our community. We are starting to see some people from the DARS community in our Sunday services.
- I have been attending their Thursday community dinners once per month.
- I also attended a lunch at the Library this month.
- The warming centre is now closed for the season.

DURHAM MULIFAITH COMMUNITY

- We have welcomed in a local Muslim group to use our facility to hold their prayers/scripture recitation throughout Ramadan. There were very gracious guests and they were able to work well with DARS to coordinate the use of the space during warming centre events.

CLWR REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP:

- On Sunday, April 7th we were visited by Jennifer Ardon from Canadian Lutheran World Relief regarding refugee sponsorship, as well as a meet and greet with Mansora Amini, Co-sponsor.
- We have now submitted our sponsorship documents and CLWR is working to get the family to Canada.

CANADA SUMMER GRANTS/ MP JENNIFER O'CONNELL

- It has been a challenge setting up a meeting with our MP but we will continue to reach out and try to secure a meeting to discuss the Summer Grant program but also to explore other ways we can work together to build community.

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

11. **Closing Prayer: Sirkka** did the closing prayer.
12. **Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.**

Next Regular Council Meeting **– Thursday, May 16th, 2024, 7:00 pm via hybrid Zoom & in person model.**

Online Votes held between Council Meetings:

1. Approval to Amend a Motion to Approve the Contract with Tithe.ly

Background:

A motion to approve the contract with Tithe.ly was approved via email by the Council on October 26, 2023. On March 25th, 2024 Tithe.ly asked for documentation that authorized David Wishart to sign on behalf of Peace Lutheran Church. Fiona then amended the earlier motion to provide that authorization and sent out an email for the Council to vote on.

It was moved by ***Fiona Haapalehto****, seconded by* ***Analisa Chand,***

To amend the motion adopted on October 23, 2023:

"That in addition to the software budget approved for Tithe.ly and the digital presence at Peace, Council approve the contract with Tithe.ly for software and consultation on their products including web development, church mobile app, church management software, and giving tools"

By adding the following:

"… and to authorize David Wishart to act as our liaison and sign any documentation related to this project with Tithe.ly on behalf of Peace Lutheran Church."

Discussion: None.

Fiona, Analisa, David, Cameron, Rainer and Sirkka voted to approve. Approval for the amended motion was given March 25, 2024.