

**Congregation Council Meeting  
December 17, 2019  
7:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

- I. **Call to Order at 7:04p**
  - A. **Attendance:** Mark Blower, Rick Doty, Susan Mathieu, Bob Stevens, Pastor Ric Elliott, Pastor Spencer Steele, Kathy Everleth, Dianne Justesen, Nina McNally, Denise Rohrbach and Tami Reichley.
  - B. **Excused Absences:** Molly Olszewski, Mark Stanziola, Chris McGrath and Mark Binkley,
  - C. **Devotions:** Rick Doty
  
- II. **Approval of minutes**
  - A. **November 19, 2019 Monthly Council Meeting minutes** - Motion to approve as amended by Dianne Justesen with a second by Mark Blower – **Approved.**
  - B. **December 8, 2019 Congregation Meeting minutes** - Motion to approve by Dianne Justesen with a second by Mark Blower - **Approved**
  
- III. **Staff Reports**

Following the affirmative vote to call Tami Reichley for Associate Pastor, she is responding in writing to accept the call.

Her ordination will be held Feb 16, 2020 at 4pm at LCHS. This will be a service of the synod held at our building with the offering going to the fund for leadership of synod. The conditions until she is ordained were clarified and she is authorized to perform sacramental ministry as long as it is in the context of LCHS. Also, she will not be called "Pastor Tami Reichley" until after ordination.

After much preparation, time and effort the church staff is ready for Christmas Eve and the five church services to be held.

Updates related to the church constitution and how LCHS will implement and adopt them are pending from Lorie Stout Sherman.

Long time members and staff with health issues were acknowledged to be kept in our prayers.

#### IV. Mission Team Reports/Items for Council - Feedback on Capital Project Proposal

**Worship Mission Team** – There is concern about the space and ability to grow the music program; having the Lift is a huge upgrade; also questions about the need for an egress from the worship space.

Council acknowledged the personal connections and importance related to sanctuary/altar.

In helping to understand the future space better, a suggestion is to map out the area and remove/rearrange what is there (or in a similar sized room) to help discern how to integrate the historical space with future space.

**Nursery School Board and Faith Formation for Children**– The Nursery Board asked if it were possible to have a cost comparison for doing some cosmetic renovations to the current preschool classrooms versus what it would cost to move preschool downstairs as originally proposed.

To improve overall attractiveness of the preschool so as to be more appealing to prospective families, the Nursery Board had the following suggestions:

- Drywall and paint over the cinderblock wall in the pre-K classroom
- Update cabinetry and countertops
- Replace carpeting
- New chairs for the 4s classroom
- Update bathrooms, including reachable towels
- Do not change bathrooms to single-use, as this could cause an increase in “accidents.” If the nursery school were to move downstairs, they would not want single-use there either.
- Request NO self-flushing toilets and no air dryers, as many small children are scared by the sudden loud noise

The Mission Team wonders if we are not doing the entire renovation if people will rescind their pledges.

**Motion:** Add Debbie DePue to the substitute list for Nursery caregiver, pending background checks. Second by Rick Doty. **Approved**

The preschool now has its own Facebook page and the plan is to continue to share special events and activities.

Registration for the 2020-2021 School year will start in January. Staff bonuses will remain the same as there has been a decrease in enrollment. St Ann preschool in Trexlertown is closing so this could mean some additional families. There was a decision

to increase each class by 1 child to increase income versus raise tuition (as we are on the higher end compared to local preschool tuitions).

**Finance Mission Team-** November was a slightly better month than expected and still on track to end the year with a cash balance of \$123,000.

There is a \$155,000 balance for Spirit Led, Spirit Alive with about \$20K moved from prior Capital Campaigns. Donations are starting already for the current Campaign. The envelopes for giving (indicating they are for the Capital Campaign) are on their way out to members.

Financial Secretary Pam Harshay is moving to NC and we will need to replace her. This is a volunteer role at approximately 10 hours per week. It requires someone who has some financial knowledge, discretion and is organized.

**Faith Formation for Adults Mission Team** - CFL will have a session on Jan, 5<sup>th</sup> 2020 to thank Vicar Tami for completing her internship with us. This will also include a "Thank you" to the intern committee.

**Health Mission Team** – The team will be doing a Teddy bear clinic for the preschool – tentative date set for March.

**Other -**

Mission Team reports are due January 3, 2020 for the Annual Report. Consideration is being given to alternative forms of communication of the annual report for the future.

Council will need to decide in January about what to bring to the congregation as a plan for moving forward - communicated through the Council Forum - based on the results of the Capital campaign and feedback.

**V. Old Business**

None

**VI. New Business**

**A. Council Nominees**

**Motion:** The Nominating committee proposes the following new Council members to be presented at the Annual Congregational meeting:

Faye Casciano – 3 year term

Kristen Ervin – 3 year term  
Bob Stevens – 3 year term  
Chris Pirotta – 3 year term  
Youth representative – Kelby McNally – 1 year term  
Synod Delegate – Leesa Wimmer – 1 year term  
Synod Delegate – Rick Doty – 1 year term  
Second by Mark Blower **Approved.**

**B. Preliminary 2020 Budget – Bob Stevens**

There is an increase to expenses in the budget by \$47,000 (Investment in People). We don't have all pledge info (missing for 80 people – who have pledged before) so revenue totals are still pending. The list of congregational benevolence is \$65K which is about the same as 2019. The Finance Mission team meets again on Jan 13, 2020.

**VII. Next Steps**

**A. Next Meeting Date:** January 21, 2020 (may need another meeting before)

**B. To Do/Assignments:**

**1. Devotions:** Bob Stevens

**VIII. Prior to the end of the meeting, Bob Stevens was recognized for his contributions as Council president.**

Motion to adjourn at 8:23pm by Dianne Justesen, second by Mark Blower

**Approved.**