

Congregational Council Meeting

April 21 2021

MINUTES

- I. Call to order at 7:01p
- II. Present: Mark Stanziola, Pastor Ric Elliott, Faye Casciano, Chris Pirrotta, Chris McGrath, Amy Grubb, Bob Stevens, Pastor Tami Reichley, Pastor Spencer Steele, Mike Epperly, Nina McNally, Denise Rohrbach and Hayden Fermier
Excused: Mark Binkley, Kristin Ervin
- III. Devotions by Denise Rohrbach
- IV. Adoption of Minutes from MARCH Congregation Council Monthly meeting on March 16th, 2021. **Motion:** To approve the March 16, 2021 Council meeting minutes - by Pastor Ric with a second by Mike Epperly. **APPROVED**
- V. Staff Reports
Pastor Ric Elliott shared that Holy Week went well; staff is seeing an increase in need for pastoral support; Brock McElhenney has begun work and is getting to know the staff.
 - A. **Motion:** From Staff Support, 1) to recommend that all members of the LCHS staff be vaccinated against COVID 19 and 2) if a member of staff chooses not to receive the COVID 19 vaccine it is recommended that he or she be asked to sign a waiver relieving the other members of the LCHS staff and the congregation from any responsibility or liability that may arise due to that staff member's lack of vaccination/s. Second by Denise Rohrbach. Discussion to amend the motion by adding 3) the recommendation that adherence to the current CDC recommendations be followed by all staff. Vote = 9 Yes, 4 No and 1 abstained. **APPROVED**
 - B. Requests from Sharon MacCabe:
 - i. Musician Austin Gross was brought on for short-term support and has been very well received and an integral part of the Family Zoom service. It will be requested that Staff Support review options for his continuation and come back with a recommendation.
 - ii. The suggestion is to get an electronic piano for use while worship will be held under the tent. An option would be to rent an electronic piano. Finance and Worship & Music are tasked with review and consideration of this request and will provide their recommendation.
 - C. Dodd Lamberton has submitted his letter of resignation as Director of Liturgy. **Motion:** To accept Dodd Lamberton's resignation as Director of Liturgy effective July 31, 2021 with deep

regret by Mark Stanziola, with a second by Bob Stephens. **APPROVED.** Staff support will discuss plans for his replacement at their next meeting.

- D. In recognition of Administrative Assistant day, Pastor Ric Elliott will coordinate having flowers sent to Nikki Clark from Staff and Council. Additionally, he will have flowers sent to Sharon MacCabe during her recovery.
- E. Summer Sexton – For the summer, the plan is to supplement the current cleaning service, ServiceMaster (contracted through Aug 31, 2021), with an individual who will come in 10 hours a week at \$15/hour (\$600 month). As for a longer-term solution, a fulltime individual will be sought and the advertising for that position will start in Jul/Aug. The fulltime sexton will be responsible for more tasks than Service Master was doing or would do.
Motion: To begin advertising for the Summer Sexton position, verbally during ZOOM worship and added to Holy Happenings by Chris McGrath with a second by Mike Epperly.
APPROVED
- F. **Motion:** Pastor Spencer Steele presents the following confirmands: Nora Casciano, Thomas Eck, Emma Huntnik, Lindsey Kahler, Spencer Marcucci, Griffin Messenlehner, Cassidy Messenlehner, Olivia Reggie, Ryan Rooney, Mackenzie Schaffer, Jesse Scott, Sylvia Sokolofski, and Daniel Tobey who have fulfilled the requirements to affirm their Baptism on May 16, 2021 with a second by Sue Mathieu. **APPROVED**

VI. Finance Update

- A. **Motion:** To standardize the Memorial Garden fee to \$400 which includes the name plaque by Mike Epperly, second by Bob Stephens. **APPROVED.**
- B. Credit Card update – The transition to the new credit card company for church staff has occurred.
- C. MIF Loan Update – The loan has been secured.
- D. Recommendation for Staff Notary – There is a suggestion that Nikki Clark get trained as a Notary so they have one on staff especially due to the ongoing construction activities and signatures needed. The cost will be ~\$350 initially which includes the course and stamp, then ~\$150 yearly if the decision would be to renew. Nikki Clark agrees to obtain this training. **Motion:** To move forward with making Nikki Clark a Notary, by Pastor Ric Elliott with a second by Pastor Tami Reichley. **APPROVED.**

VII. Building Project Update – We are running into issues with the timing of the final approval of permits from township. This will push back the completion date from Oct 1, 2021 to Nov 1, 2021. Otherwise, activities are moving along reasonably well.

VIII. Mission Team Reports

- A. Nursery School Request – The school is requesting a graduation ceremony to be held on the upper lawn on May 25, 2021 (with a rain date May 26, 2021). Socially distanced spaces would be marked as a circle for a family unit and available on a first come, first served basis.

Students would be lined up (socially distanced) in front. Masks will be required and the program would include rhymes versus songs.

- a. **Motion:** The Nursery school requests to hold an in-person “Moving On” ceremony (outside and socially distanced) for students moving on to kindergarten by Amy Grubb with a second by Pastor Spencer **APPROVED**

B. VBS Singing request

- a. **Motion:** The Faith Formation for Children Mission team is requesting that singing for VBS be allowed outside, in masks and pursuant to CDC distancing guidelines, with a second by Faye Casciano **APPROVED**

IX. Old Business

- A. Building Re-Entry Plan –There is ongoing planning and continued discussion by the task force about what it means to move back into the building. Groups are encouraged to use the tent. We will consider having one of the next council meetings under the tent.
- B. Tent Rental – The tent is ordered and set to come mid-June.
- C. Picnic and Prayer Services on May 5 – The service is planned and getting underway. Picnic starts at 6:30p and the prayer service at 7p. Liturgy will be led by Pastor Tami Reichley. It is expected to be a large crowd but not over the limit of 200 in an outdoor setting.

X. New Business

- A. Many received emails about the Open Doors Grant from the ELCA. There will be a collaborative discussion with a recommendation coming back to Council with the proposed application request geared towards our children’s ministries.
- B. Council will start using the book Cultural Architecture: A Path to Creating Vitalized Congregations by Douglas A. Hill as our devotional as we consider the possibility of becoming an Anchor church. Pastor Ric Elliott will buy and distribute the books on our behalf.

XI. Next Meeting will be May 18th at 7p via ZOOM (potential in person meeting for the JUNE meeting). Devotions by Mike Epperly (if our book is available and distributed by then, we will start the book review).

XII. Adjourned in prayer at 8:55p

Respectfully Submitted by,

Nina McNally

Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

Council Secretary