

Congregation Council Meeting

June 15, 2021

7:00 PM

MINUTES

I. Call to Order 7:02p.m.

A. Attendance: Faye Casciano, Pastor Ric Elliott, Mike Epperly, Kristin Ervin, Hayden Fermier, Amy Grubb, Susan Mathieu, Chris McGrath, Nina McNally, Chris Pirrotta, Pastor Tami Reichley, Denise Rohrbach, Mark Stanziola, Pastor Spencer Steele, Bob Stevens

B. Excused: Mark Binkley

C. Devotions: Bob Stevens

II. Eastwood property on Cedar Crest Boulevard

Chris Carter received an offer from the owners for LCHS to purchase the property (\$325,000) adjacent to the church parking lot. Part of the driveway on the office end of the building is on their property (easement in place). They may consider updating their driveway and the new driveway would be on our property and an easement would be needed from LCHS. Further review/discussion will occur within the Property Mission Team.

Motion: Pastor Ric Elliott moves to express that LCHS is not interested in the Eastwood property and we will entertain discussion with regard to an easement, with a second by Pastor Spencer Steele **APPROVED**

III. Approval of minutes from the May 18, 2021 Council meeting

A. Motion to approve the Council minutes (with suggested edits) from the May 18, 2021 monthly meeting by Bob Stevens, with a second by Mike Epperly. **APPROVED**

IV. Staff Reports - Pastor Elliott

A. Vaccination, building re-entry and waiver

Motion: Staff support moves that as building re-entry occurs, staff is to follow masking and social distancing protocols. Specifically, 1) if staff member is vaccinated, it is personal choice to wear a mask or not; 2) if staff member is unvaccinated, a mask is required and 3) all staff continue to follow current social distancing guidance. Second by Denise Rohrbach. **APPROVED.** Vaccination status will be on an honor system.

Motion: Staff Support to require all the employees of the church sign the waiver, with a second by Chris McGrath. **APPROVED**

Motion: Pastor Ric Elliott moved that persons distributing Holy Communion would be vaccinated, second by Bob Stevens. **APPROVED.** Discussion clarified that volunteers can be asked to confirm their vaccination status and this is not a HIPAA violation. This guidance will encompass eucharistic ministers and worship assistants.

Rejoicing Spirits had a team meeting to discuss the return to in person worship and have determined they will wait until there is the return to the sanctuary, with many factors contributing to this decision.

Stephens Ministers – Regarding safety precautions, they can use their discretion and it will be a dialogue between the Stephens Minister and the receiver.

V. Finance Update –

A. Summary of expenses – Mike Epperly shared a summary of the current financial numbers and status. Unpledged income is still down YTD (26.9K behind). May had a deficit income but YTD 82,000.

In March 2021, we approved to give \$1500 to four charities (Angel Network, Zionsville Food Pantry, Second Harvest and World Hunger) from the stimulus surplus. **Motion:** From Mike Epperly on behalf of the Finance Mission Team, to give an additional \$4000 (\$1000 to each group) from the stimulus funds, with a second by Bob Stevens. **APPROVED**

There is still review and consideration for the digital piano and Sharon MacCabe has learned there is a waiting list to purchase. The funding is still being discussed at Finance and endowment fund options will be reviewed but in the interim, Sharon will get on the waiting list while decisions are made about funding. Update from Sue Mathieu is that the cost will be privately funded by a donation.

VI. Building Project Update

A. Occupancy Target 10/31/21 – The permit was granted and building construction can start. There is some concern related to wording of the permit that things will be “resolved in the field” but still moving forward. Everything seems to be reasonably on schedule despite some issues with availability of materials. The contractors are working to juggle the schedule depending on what materials they have and what they can do. Some other changes with the permit are that in the upper parking lot there are 2 areas that are cross hatched to not park, they are going to have to be curbed with grass added to make up for permeable area. Also, on the Cedar Crest side of the building where the addition is will require a berm to slow the release of storm water. A change order is in process on these items but should be within contingencies.

VII. Mission Team Reports

- A. Faith Formation for Children** – VBS enrollment was below the threshold and they decided to adjust the schedule and spread out to three Wednesday evenings June – (camping theme), July (Christmas) and August (blessing of the backpacks). These are geared towards families but open to congregation. Vaccinated individuals will not need to be masked. As a family pod, it is the family’s choice about mask wearing. Snacks will be prepackaged snacks and water. Bathrooms will be available.
- B. Faith Formation for Youth** – Pastor Spencer Steele is working on getting ready for next ELCA Youth Gathering on Jul 24-28 2022 in Minneapolis, MN.
- C. Building Emergency Task Force** – We have submitted the grant and are awaiting approval for monitoring and access controls to be implemented in Q4 2021 and Q1 2022. Overall, the expense will be \$5k over and we will have to budget for this in 2022.
- D. Worship Mission Team** - Meetings are resuming
- E. Director of Liturgy transition** - Dodd Lamberton will start transitioning on Jul 12th, 2021 and Melanie Werley will be in place Aug 1st, 2021.
- F. Technology** – In the process of updating all staff to Microsoft 365.

VIII. Old Business

- A. Tent Rental status** – Delivered on June 14, 2021 and has been set up. The end of rental will be early Oct 2021 with extension of the contract on a weekly basis. The permit is good until December.
- B. Austin Gross status** – Staff relations recommendation is to extend Austin Gross’ status until September since we are doing services through Zoom through the month of September. The Family service will be adjusted at that time (to the sanctuary or in person). **Motion:** From Pastor Ric Elliott to extend Austin Gross’ contract through end of September, with a second by Pastor Tami Reichley.
APPROVED Discussion clarified that this adds \$3150 (18 sessions at \$175 each) to the expenses for this year.

IX. New Business

- A. Staff and Re-entry of offices**
Office is fully open and Nikki Clark will be there full time (open to close). Staff will clearly establish what days they are in the office. If the office is open, there is going to be a pastor there so the pastors will coordinate their schedules. On Fridays in the summer, the office will close at 4p.
- B. Summer Sexton position** –Brock McElhanney is open to take the extra hours of the summer sexton duties with further follow-up conversation to occur with Chris Carter. Brock will get paid for the summer sexton position at the sexton rate. The plan is approved by council pending Chris Carter and Brock McElhanney working out the details.
- C. Candidate for Director of Liturgy following Dodd’s resignation** – **Melanie Werley**
Deacon Melanie Werley has accepted the position. The Bishop does not object to her being called “Deacon” and she will be paid at the same (previously approved) salary.

- D. 60th Anniversary celebration** –There is a Committee (including Mike Epperly, Alice Mudge and Pattie Bisbing) that will begin the planning for the celebration amidst the numerous unknowns. Target date will likely be a Sunday in early December.
- E. Entry of tent details – Worship**
Worship to start in the tent on June 27, 2021. Council reviewed and made edits to the letter being sent to the congregation via mail, MailChimp and posted to the website regarding the details of the upcoming worship schedule changes.
- X. Next Meeting** – July 20, 2021 (in person in the tent unless otherwise advised)

 - A. Devotions** – Kristin Ervin (reviewing chapter 2 of Cultural Architecture)
- XI. Adjourned in prayer at 8:45pm**