

**Peace United Church of Christ
Coordinating Council Meeting
January 18, 2022 — 6:30 pm via Zoom**

Present: Moderator, Tom Hystead; Vice-Moderator, Joan Peterson; Treasurer, Dick Goese; Secretary, Diane Swanoski, Spiritual Life Representative, Susan Larson Kidd, Education Representative, Penny Cragun; Acting for Justice Representative, Monica Liddle; Stewardship Representative: Dave Courtright, At Large members; Jessica Olson, Mary Adams, Bud Trnka, and Matt Ryan, Rev. Jim Mitulski, Faith Formation Minister, Nathan Holst; Interim Pastoral Associate, Charlotte Frantz

Guest: Elise Courtright, Administrative Coordinator

Call to Order at 6:35 p.m. by Tom Hystead

Opening Meditation: Tom Hystead shares an excerpt from Martin Luther King Jr.'s *Letter from Birmingham Jail*. ([Sign up for future devotion](#))

Agenda Additions and Approval - Late addition to the agenda is Approval of UCC NGLI application for Nathan Holst (New Business). It is moved, seconded and unanimously agreed to approve the agenda including the application approval.

Approval of Consent Agenda (Financial statements, HR report, written committee representative reports, and COVID Task Force Update.) It is moved, seconded, and unanimously passed to approve the Consent Agenda as emailed.

Reports of Standing Committees

Finance Committee: Financial Reports submitted by Dick Goese. He shares:

- Income dropped during the last few months of the year.
- Several large year end expenses resulted in a \$24,000+ deficit. Some of these expenses include Rev. Charlotte Frantz's salary, Nathan Holst's CPE, and visit/moving expenses for Pastor Jim.
- Cash flow is still OK thanks to large balances of designated funds.

Human Resources Committee: Written report by LeAnne Ventrella

Nominating Committee – N/A

Written Committee Representative Reports

Christian Education: Written report submitted by Penny Cragun

Christian Spiritual Life: Written report submitted by Susan Larson Kidd

Additional comments:

- There is no one remaining on the Health and Wellness Task Force. Susan Larson Kidd and Monica Liddle have offered to try and get it started up again. Bud Trnka offers to help. There will be a request for new members in the Peace Bell and through email.

Acting for Justice Hub: Written report submitted by Monica Liddle

Christian Stewardship: Written report submitted by Dave Courtright

Additional comments -

- Thank you to Dave Courtright who has been putting in a lot of time helping out with custodian duties while Dan Shepard, custodian, is out due to injury.
- Church members have also been very supportive in assisting with custodial duties during Dan's absence. Cleaning duties are currently scheduled with volunteers until the end of January.
- It is suggested to consider maintenance responsibility in the Daycare lease, which is different than, and in addition to custodial duties (which are currently Peace Church's responsibility).

Minister's Reports

Rev. Mitulski - Interim Minister

- Christmas services had record attendance.
- Thank you to Susan Larson Kidd for her tech support.
- We are currently in the season of Epiphany.
- Pastor Jim has led two Talk, Listen, and Pray sessions. Some good information has come from the meetings and it has been a good opportunity for folks to ask questions and provide feedback. There is a need for more conversations, which Pastor Jim is considering. Lack of personal connection has been a major issue.
- Peace Church has had a good active appearance at several recent social justice events in the community.
- February is Black History Month.
- Lent will begin in March and will include midweek services.
- There has been a COVID outbreak within our staff this week.
- There is currently a COVID spike in Duluth - twice the infection rate of any major city. All church activities will be on Zoom or livestream over the next two weeks. Some activities have been postponed, including confirmation and choir. The next two Sunday worship services will be online only - live streamed and recorded.
- It is moved and seconded to postpone the Congregational Meeting until Sunday, February 13th. The motion passes unanimously.
- The office will be closed for the next two weeks. Charlotte Frantz offers to have her email used for church contact during this time.
- Pastor Jim will be offering a Zoom prayer meeting for anyone interested.

Nathan Holst - Faith Formation Minister - Written report.

Additional comments by Nathan -

- Nathan has been meeting with Peace Church parents of children and youth. Many parents are staying away because of COVID. There is a need for safety and reconnection.
- Gabriel Fund - There has been discussion of increased capacity (including increased capacity for staff) with other churches, to spread out responsibilities and distribution of Gabriel funds. Churches are reignited in their reinvestment in this mission and service to our community.
- **Action item** - The Council is asked to support Nathan in his application for NGLI (Next Generation Leadership Initiative). NGLI is a five year program for young clergy to help

support them and give them leadership training. Two week-long training institutes for continuing education are required each year. A motion is made by Susan Larson Kidd to approve the application and support Nathan in this process. Bud Trnka seconds the motion and it passes unanimously.

Charlotte Frantz-Interim Pastoral Assoc. Minister

Additional comments by Charlotte -

- Charlotte has been working on following up with authorized ministers in our congregation concerning their covenants within the church and the greater community. Charlotte and Pastor Jim will meet by Zoom with these ministers to ask some questions and require some accountability. Retired clergy may also be included. The goal is to help clergy feel more supported by our church as they carry out their ministries in the community.
- Jim Soderberg's funeral will be held in-person at Peace Church within the next couple of weeks.

Old Business

COVID Task Force Update

- The COVID Task Force will meet again Wed. 1/19.
- See recommendations for the next couple of weeks in Pastor Jim's comments.

Stewardship Campaign Update

- Letters have gone out to members asking to consider increasing their pledge or consider pledging if they haven't yet.
- The Stewardship Team will meet on Thursday, 1/20 to discuss pledges.
- The Team is asked to update the Council after their meeting.

2022 Proposed Budget

- Council budget discussion is postponed until after the Stewardship Team meeting.
- The Sunday, January 23rd adult forum about the budget needs to be rescheduled.

New Business:

Council Retreat Planning -

- The Council Retreat scheduled for Saturday, January 22nd, is postponed until Saturday, February 12th, from 9:30-noon by Zoom.

Establish a Brokerage Account (A/I)

- Dick Goese, Treasurer, has researched setting up a brokerage account for Peace Church to receive stocks. Such an account could be set up with Morgan Stanley.
- Pastor Jim will check with the United Church Fund regarding their brokerage services and fees.
- There is a motion by Dave Courtright to authorize the Finance Committee to establish a brokerage account in the name of Peace Church. The motion is seconded by Joan Peterson and unanimously approved.

Motion to move to Executive Session -

- It is moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to move to executive session.

Adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

Next meetings:

January 23, 2022 - 2022 Budget Preview - postponed

TBD - Council Budget discussion

Saturday, February 12 - Coordinating Council Retreat 9:30-noon on Zoom

Sunday, February 13 - Congregational Meeting

February 15, 2022 - Coordinating Council Meeting ([sign-up for devotion](#))