

## Minutes of the March 21, 2023 Peace UCC Council meeting

Present: Joan Peterson, Charlotte Franz, Kirby Wood, Tom Hystead, Nathan Holst, Penny Cragun, Melissa Boyle, Monica Liddle, Stephen Dando, Geof Witrak

Vision statement- Our vision is to be an accessible, open, and affirming community, growing in Christian faith, committed to peace and justice, and building the beloved community. We strive to respect and value all of creation, and the diversity of people's sexual orientation, gender expression and identity, class, race, culture, age, and physical and mental abilities.

Patty Beech- Dzuk gave an update about the PRC to the Council as we continue to have updates from Council appointed committees.

Joan called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Devotion by

Review of agenda with any additions

\*Consent agenda (written reports)

- **Minutes of February Council meeting**
- **Committee reports- Christian Service, Acting for Justice, Property/Stewardship, Christian Education**
- **Standing Committee Reports- HR and Finance**
- **Reports from Pastors Charlotte and Nathan**

**Any items to be withheld for discussion or vote:**

Joan withheld the financial committee report for further discussion.

- Vote to remove Kathy Nelson and Janelle Kohls as signers of the Gabriel Fund. Nathan will remain a signer and we will add Rachel Obed at this time. Nathan Langer moved to remove 2 names and add one. Geof seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Joan asked a question about miscellaneous pastoral expenses. Those are related to moving expenses for Pastor Budd and for Pastor Jim.
- Monica asked about ordinary income and expense related to benevolence income. The income item in the financials came from the Caberet and will go to Damiano.
- Monica asked about the Worship and Arts Committee expenditure. Charlotte or the finance committee will report back about that expense of \$1000. A check was cut for a guest preacher after Pastor Jim left and other miscellaneous expenses related to worship.
- Joan appreciates the updates and changes to our financial documents and updates by our new bookkeeper, Mali Lorenz and our Business Manager, Rachel Obed.

Tom moved to approve of the consent agenda. Melissa seconded. The motion passed.

**Pastor Charlotte's report**

- Charlotte has been working with the new staff to train them in. New staff is more efficient with our Vanco system, data systems, etc.
- Charlotte has analyzed Stewardship information ( written report) and discovered that some information had not been reported to us about members who have continued to give but are not pledging. As a result, our income is higher than we had previously reported. This new information puts us closer to just over \$500,000 in member contributions.
- Charlotte also has a list of those who had not continued pledging or those we have not seen in church for a while. A subcommittee will contact these people by phone to check in.
- We should inform the congregation of these new numbers. Stephen would like a revised budget for the search committee.
- Pastor Budd sent a letter with an image of the “Tree of Life” painting in our sanctuary, inviting members to come to the various Lenten services. Pastor Budd’s mission is to get more people to come to church services and engage
- Geof cautions us to remember the supplemental giving for the last 2 years. Our goal should be to increase pledging households. We need 60-70 more giving households. This will be a more long-term proposition.
- Tom agreed that we all have work to be done for keeping, adding members or getting members back.
- Monica reminds us that we should be cautious about dipping into designated funds for use for the general fund.
- Charlotte reported that the use of our daycare space has been vetted carefully by the subcommittee and urged us to attend the April 2<sup>nd</sup> presentations by Joel Kilgour and to encourage members to attend. She has made a question/answer sheet to give to people at the forums.
- The roof is still leaking, and Charlotte has had many buckets in her office- as many as 7. The ice was removed so the leaking subsided, but her office is now cold because of lack of insulation from the snow. We will need to do repair work on the roof.
- Charlotte appreciates working as a team with Pastor Nathan.
- Charlotte reported on the growth of the Sanctuary program since 2016.

There was a brief discussion about the search for an IT person with Nathan reporting how the search is going. We have had few applicants but need to keep getting the word out. Melissa has some names of people who work at the DECC. Nathan will send a job description to the Council.

Joan will work on appointing a fundraising committee. Several people are interested. There was agreement that we should do this. We should name line items to get people excited about giving.

### **Old Business**

- The QR code cards are in the pews and ready to go. Melissa will make an announcement during the next church service Thanks to Melissa for all the hard work. There should be an announcement in the Peace Bell and in the bulletins as well. Melissa reported that First Lutheran church is including an opportunity for fundraising for different projects every

month in their bulletin. It is still only credit card giving but maybe there is another way to give without a credit card through Vanco. Melissa discussed other ways, through texting, to give through a link and other ways will be discussed. We are going to include the PayPal option as well.

- There was discussion about the special upcoming benevolence offerings.

### **New Business**

- Jessica talked to Bri about using Constant Contact for our email and communications at a cost of \$85 a year. There was discussion about the cost- is this correct? It's based on the number of contacts and maybe an initial rate? Jessica and Bri will check on this. Our email list number is several hundred. We will trust the office staff to make the decision.
- A nominating committee will be appointed to recruit new Council members. It is a committee of the Council. People up for renomination-Monica, Penny, Diane (secretary), Worship and Arts, Treasurer, Vice Moderator. Council members are asked to submit names to the nominating committee. The committee is to be the Moderator, Pastor, 3 other Council members.
- The Finance Committee will hold a special meeting in April to discuss the updated budget with the new information we now have.
- Dismantling Racism team is discussing DEI training with a recommendation to start the training modules in the fall of 2023 using the funding from the Jubilee fund and the other 2 trainings in early 2024 with the rest of the funding (\$5000) in the 2024 budget. A group will begin discussing the trainings, including one Council member. Stephen is interested. Monica may consider depending on being chair of Acting for Justice. Penny would be interested but it would be as a non Council member because she will not seek another term on the Council. We agreed that this is a good plan. We could consider a 5<sup>th</sup> member for the planning group. The Committee will consist of Gary Boelhower, Budd, Stephen and Nathan.
- The annual meeting date will be June 11<sup>th</sup>.
- There was then a discussion about worship times in the summer and changing the time to 9:00 a.m. The Council recommends 9:00 but the pastors will have further discussion. We should keep the times the same through June 11<sup>th</sup> because of the annual meeting.
- Charlotte requested that someone from the Council come to the staff meeting on the Monday to talk about the finances of the church. Tom Hystead agreed to go to the meeting.
- Stephen gave a short update from the Search Committee with general information.

Next meetings- April 2<sup>nd</sup> forums to hear information from Joel Kilgour about Stepping On Up  
Council meeting- April 18

Geof moved to adjourn the meeting. Tom seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Joan Peterson

**Parking Lot ( items for consideration at future meetings)**

Roof repair