

May 26, 2020 Minutes of Peace Lutheran Leadership Council

Present: Chris Engel, Shannon Hofer, ElizaBeth McCay, Crystal Pariseau, Doug Price, Elizabeth Stevens, Russ Straight, Jon Williams. Jennie Carter, Pastor Chris Wulff.

Absent: Sue Mueller

The meeting was opened in prayer and thanksgiving.

New Business: Dormant Designated Account

Carla fielded a request from a former member that money in the dormant Salvation Army Food Mission account (est \$200) be transferred to SWVA account, then Peace cut a check (\$TBD) to the SWVA community directly.

Discussion

1. Where did the money come from initially? Was it from the former member, or general donations? Even if it came from the former member, does the former member have a say what happens to the money once it's been given to the church, and once they've left the church?
2. What was the intent of the money in the account? Why send it outside of our community? Could it be used for local food needs i.e. Hungry Hearts?
3. Council cautioned against setting a precedent and allowing the intent of a former member to drive the current actions of the church.
4. Would be great to close a dormant account (Salvation Army).
5. **ELIZABETH M** will follow up with the original request from the former member to answer the intent questions.
6. **SHANNON** will follow up on the money trail for the history of the Salvation Army account – what money in that account typically was used for.
7. **JENNIE** will talk with Carla about future steps, aka waiting for further word from Council.

New Business: COVID & Potential Reopening

Thinking ahead to “at some point” when we could hold in person services, what might that look like?

Discussion, general thoughts of Council

1. Caution, time, space recommended
2. Curve hasn't flattened in our area. What is a comfortable number for us to meet in person again? Undecided.
3. How do we fit in our space? Are we comfortable using external space in a creative way? Would a service with no choir/peace/communion etc have joy? We don't want to be the first one to open and have new cases, but also don't want to be the last and have people leave for an 'open' church.

4. We need financial resources to more creatively utilize online services through an increase in technology.
5. Be positive! The church isn't closed. How can we be creative about what we do during service and in the community, virtually and in person, to make sure everyone knows The Church is open even though the building is not?
 - Rotating signage to announce things like new Pastor, service times, etc.
 - Edit website messages to keep a positive outlook. **PASTOR** will talk with **TERESA**.
 - Continue letting people know through all mediums available that we are striving to gather in person again, whenever that is.

Thoughts of the Pastor – Something that Could Be... Eventually

1. Potential outdoor distanced services that follow all current state and ELCA guidelines. Parking at AmFam, no singing, mask requirements, service in the round (like early ancestral services) for max seating and audio), BYO seats, wafer-only communion, high usher work, possible bathroom use if absolutely necessary. Based on measurements of the parking lot and 6' physical distancing, max 49 family groups / service
2. Potential indoor service that follows all current state and ELCA guidelines, to be livestreamed. Likely max 5 families indoors, mask requirements, no sharing of anything, metal chairs, one in and one out, no singing, wafers-only communion, no nursery.
 - Discussion items centered around providing masks to those who don't have them; informing the neighbors; the depth of our usher list; training for ushers and the learning curve for everyone; bulletins online in addition to recordings for accessibility and reducing waste; and more.
 - Can we do this in a pilot situation before going all-in, like using vespers services? Then try an 8:30 parking lot service with a slightly larger group and keep the 10a live online for a while. Keep an active feedback loop throughout all steps.
 - Feedback Loop: Worship and Music team will be in the primary position of receiving feedback and revising plans, including for future gathering plans and creativity in long term worship planning. Team will bring recommendations back to Council for final decisions.
 - Potential start mid-July, pending new state and ELCA recommendations as well as W&M team planning.
 - **PASTOR** will include a brief announcement in e-zine to let people know we won't be back in the church on June 14, but plans are coming for a future in-person date that follows all current state guidelines and continues to include an online option.
 - **PASTOR** will let **TERESA** know to communicate with people who use our building that they should not expect to return to the building on June 15.
 - Would we be able to let AA, Seventh Day, and other groups use the parking lot in similarly 6' marked off ways as we use for outdoor services? Future use contract might include them signing a statement that Peace isn't liable for anyone catching the virus or being prosecuted for not wearing a mask on our property. Pastor has contacted our insurance carrier and has lists on our responsibilities and liability if other groups have issues.

Next Meeting

June 9, 6pm 2020: Zoom

The meeting closed in prayer and with gratitude.