

Peace Lutheran Church Leadership Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 9, 2020

Attendance: Jon Williams, Elizabeth Stevens, Doug Price, ElizaBeth McCay, Pastor Chris Wulff, Jennie Carter, Chris Engel, Shannon Hofer, Crystal Pariseau, Russ Strait, Sue Mueller joined ~7pm

I. Devotions – Jennie Carter

II. Voices of the Congregation

- None

III. Member Check-In

IV. Review and Approval of May Meeting Minutes and Special Meeting Minutes

- May Meeting Minutes approved as drafted
- Special Meeting Minutes approved as amended: *Crystal* to add Jon Williams' name as present

V. Pastor and Staff Updates

- Pastor Chris:
 - o Continues to meet with members via phone and distanced outside—hearing lots of sadness and disconnect (lack of internet connection, opportunities given don't feel meaningful, need for forgiveness)
 - o Taking part in Zooms: Tuesday morning Bible study, prayer shawl ministry
 - o Working to form team for Christian Education for younger members
 - o Re-gathering: meetings with Re-gathering Team (Worship and Music), how to communicate plan with the rest of the congregation
 - o Vacation time: June 26-28, July 28-August 12; considering installation on Sunday, August 2 with Synod approval (no installations until Phase 3)
 - Doug and Lydia Price are covering service (unpaid) since Pastor Wisco isn't available
 - Will determine supply Pastor to cover the later dates
 - o May offer "Bible in 90 Days" to the congregation; needs to locate videos in storage
- Jennie:
 - o Received a matching grant from Virginia Synod; received \$250 for Hungry Hearts No More (we need to fundraise to match)
 - o Programming for youth groups will evolve since they're not going on the usual trip
 - In the middle of the summer, weaving 8th graders into high school youth group (9th-12th) and 5th graders into middle school youth group (6th-8th)
 - Needs to discuss 4th and 5th grade youth group approach with parents since it focused on team-building
 - o Starting a Zoom small group on Wednesday, June 17 after vespers for 1-1.5 hours on examining our white privilege as Christians

VI. Committee Reports – Doug Price

- (Unofficial) Property Committee:
 - o Doug spoke with John Voight for updates and A/C unit was installed
 - o Minor shingle repair is needed and estimate is underway (thanks, John!)
 - o Clark Yarborough has continued painting, cleaning, weeding, and general sprucing (thank you!)
 - o Discussed reforming an official committee; *Doug* will follow up
- Nominating Committee: have nominations for the Leadership Council and Mission Endowment Board

VII. Financial Update – Chris Engel

- Chris is proud to present May financials because they are the finest we've had in a while! Highlights:
 - o Offerings of \$40K (\$15K more than expected)

- Forgivable PPP loan hit the books and we're on track to honor the requirements
- Below projected expenses: low electricity bill, etc.
- On track for the year to meet our deficit budget on the positive side
- Endowment Team donation to Hungry Hearts No More will meet the grant match (see Jennie's staff update)
- Banking: working on getting Pastor Chris a credit card; **Chris** will continue looking into direct deposit for staff payroll
 - Discussed cost comparison—Church paying to have direct deposit (\$300-\$500) vs. checking account monthly fees for staff (usually forgiven with direct deposit)
 - Idea: Supplement staff income to cover monthly charge fee
- Designated funds: **Chris** recommends a policy on maintaining funds; he and Pastor Chris will discuss

VIII. Hosting the Peace Website

- Need to give Kim Wilkens a goal date for when the shift will happen
- Discussed platform and cost
 - Teresa's offer to do it still stands, but it would be outside her usual work hours
 - Concerns about transferring the website
 - Discussed the opportunity to start from scratch to revamp our public presence
 - Crystal reached out to connection with website developer who suggested Wordpress as a new platform (more features and reasonable price), but can get technical; willing to consult and handle the tech side
 - **Next steps: Crystal and Elizabeth** to get together with **Teresa** to consider more next steps

IX. Discussion of Designated Accounts

- Charlottesville Salvation Army food ministry: the Peace team's service has been inactive since 2018; money from four different giving unit contributions in 2017 and 2018 remains in the account
 - Leadership received request to send remaining money to SWVA
 - Discussed how to handle the Salvation Army money. ***Shannon motions to close the account and send balance to Charlottesville Salvation Army for its meal ministry (the intended use of the fund); Sue seconds. Passed; all in favor***
- Southwest Virginia: balance of \$2633 remaining and no trip planned for this year
 - Discussed what to do with the money (idea: support Binns County heating fund in fall) Ask team members and community members what they'd like to do with the funds in the account.
 - Discussed new team leadership and potential for collaboration with team forming at Muhlenberg Lutheran Church in Harrisonburg
 - **Next steps: ElizaBeth** follow up on request and reach out to team members for their ideas/input

X. Continuation of Ministry during the Pandemic

- Discussed how to better connect with those without streaming capability
- Remind about call-in option to Vespers on Zoom
- Leadership to continue phone calls to members

XI. Planning for Return to In-Person Activities

- Pastor Chris read draft of letter to congregation re: in-person, outdoor worship; suggested edits and discussed details including timeline, updates from Governor's press conference

XIII. Closed with Prayer

Future Meeting Dates and Devotion Leaders

June 23, 2020 (in church parking lot; bring chairs)

July 14, 2020 – Chris Engel

July 28, 2020