

Peace Lutheran Church

Leadership Council Meeting – September 8, 2020 (via Zoom)

Present: Doug Price, Nick Ponczka, Russ Strait, Pastor Chris Wulff, Jennie Carter, Shannon Hofer, ElizaBeth McCay, Jen Ortuno, Elizabeth Stevens, Chris Engel, Jon Williams, Crystal Pariseau, Sue Mueller

Meeting began with devotions by ElizaBeth.

1. Voices of the Congregation: none

2. Special Guest, Pastor John Wertz from the VA Synod, joined us to begin a discussion about long-term planning and sustainability of Peace's ministry. Pastor Wertz talked about the changing Church: people today want to see the Church not as an institution, but more as a mission or ministry. People want to be a part of that mission, so we should reframe how we talk about our ministry and what we do, how we fund our mission, and how we grow. Pastor Wertz looked at how Peace compares to similar congregations in the Virginia Synod and things we could focus our attention on now and in the future. We should always focus on the abundance that Peace has from the generosity of our members, not what we are lacking, or the scarcity, in a budget. We should look at our purpose, mission, and vision in order to look to the future. Council asked Pastor Wertz to return to lead us through this discussion during upcoming meetings. He will send us tools to begin conversations. We thank Pastor Wertz for his willingness to support Peace with his expertise.

3. Election of Leadership Council officers:

After discussions the following members were elected by unanimous vote: President – Doug Price, Vice President – Jon Williams, Secretary – Sue Mueller.

We need to fill non-council positions of Financial Secretary, Assistant Financial Secretary, (thank you, Shannon, for your service in this position), Assistant Treasurer, and one member for the Audit and Personnel Committees. **Shannon** will put a request for volunteers into the next e-zine.

4. August Council meeting minutes: minutes from August 11, 2020 were approved as presented.

5. Staff Updates:

- ❖ Jennie reported that high school and middle school youth groups are starting this week. They are planning to be outdoors, with masks, and socially distanced until the weather gets too cold; plans will change as needed. The 6th graders have new mentors and plans are underway for a barbeque at Pastor Chris' house.
- ❖ Pastor Chris sent out her report prior to the meeting. Highlights discussed were:
 - Worship service is going well with about 35-40 people attending outdoors at 8:30am and another 10 or so watching on Facebook live at 10am. Probably more are watching videos of the services at different times as well.
 - Pastor Chris is contemplating adding a time between the two services to hold a Zoom adult Bible/book study and a fellowship coffee hour. Tentative times of 8:30am outdoors, 9:45am online gatherings, and 11am virtual service were discussed, with adjustments made when the weather cools. Plans will be floated by the congregation when available.

- Painting of the inside of the church by dedicated volunteers continues. We discussed ideas for painting the sanctuary, which needs freshening up. Discussion will continue.
- Information will be available soon about how we can update our WiFi and telephone system (to allow voice mail). **Pastor Chris** will let us know when costs are available.

6. Financial Report: Chris Engel, treasurer

The revenue for August was a little low, at \$22,372 (we need \$25K each month to fund the approved deficit budget and \$26,500 to fully fund the budget). Offerings were \$2,000 lower than expected, and building donations were \$400 lower. Expenses were slightly higher due to a quarterly insurance payment and software renewals. We have a net positive income for the year of \$31K, mostly due to the PPP we received. No changes in designated funds this month, and we will continue our attention on this. Generally, this year has seen more consistent giving month to month and is similar to the past couple of years.

7. Website Update: Crystal

As approved at our last meeting, we contracted with Jason Hoover to revamp our website and brand, refresh our logo, and help us with an overhaul of the presentation of the website. This should make the site more inviting and navigable to visitors and more useful to the congregation. Work should be done before the end of the year. Even though **Crystal** is stepping down from council, she will continue to manage this project to its completion. Thank you, Crystal!

8. Future council meetings:

We will continue our regular council meetings on the second Tuesday of every month and our special (ministry during the pandemic) meetings on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Both meetings will be changed to 6:30pm – 8:30pm and will be either outdoors, when possible, or via Zoom.

Next meetings: Special meeting September 22, 2020 at 6:30pm

Regular meeting October 13, 2020 at 6:30pm (devotion: Sue)