

Peace Leadership Council Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2018 6:00 PM

Present: John Voight, Jon Williams, ElizaBeth McCay, Elizabeth Stevens, Pastor Lauren Miller, Vicar Melissa Woeppel, Chris Engel, Doug Price, Jennie Carter, Sue Mueller. Absent: Shannon Hofer, Crystal Pariseau. Guest: David Poole.

We gathered in the sanctuary for devotions by Jennie. Highs and lows were shared.

Old Business

1. Review and approval of July minutes – July minutes were reviewed and approved as amended.

New Business

1. Pastor's report-

- ❖ We are getting ready for fall. The fall kick-off day is August 26, when we will have one service at 10am; afterward there will be service opportunities at church and around town, and then a pool party in the afternoon/evening. Labor Day weekend will also have one service at 10am. Our new fall worship schedule starts on September 9th with new worship times at 8:30 and 10am. Children's learning time will continue with a children's sermon during service and a lesson in a classroom during adult sermon and prayers. Our new, once a month, multigenerational learning program, Create Peace, also starts on September 9, 4-6pm; the theme is "Woven In Peace" and there will be hands-on projects to learn about our lesson (from Colossians 2). There are many volunteers who are helping and lots of energy around it. We are sending a post card to all households with children within one mile of the church with hopes of welcoming the community to Peace.
- ❖ Jennie updated us on youth groups starting in September: the senior high school youth group will meet at church on Sunday nights; the middle school and confirmation groups will meet on Monday nights. The confirmation class is mentor-led again. Jennie is starting a 4th/5th grade youth group to add a faith development/learning opportunity for this age group not involved in Sunday morning children's learning time; they will meet Sundays twice a month (time TBD).
- ❖ Small groups are starting to be formed and will roll out soon (work continues on this). Pastor Lauren will be leading a Bible study at 11am on Wednesdays.

- ❖ Pastor Lauren met with Pastor John Wertz about growth of the synod in our area of Virginia. Peace is a potential leader in birthing new congregations to the north of us.
- ❖ The VA Synod Bishop's event this past week was cancelled due to anticipated low attendance due to conflicts. Discussions still occurred among leaders, and there will probably be a rescheduled date. Interesting information came out of discussions, such as: in Virginia, we have 104 retired rostered leaders, 90 active rostered leaders, and 150 congregations. Only 16% of rostered pastors are under 40 years old. The VA Synod is focused on being a resource for growth in Virginia.

2. Financial update – Chris Engel

- ❖ The good news is that we have more money than last month, but not enough yet (\$12,772 in general funds). Summer is historically a time of low giving, and June was a tough month for us. We are informing the congregation and are hopeful that people will catch up on their giving in the fall.
- ❖ We received one large financial gift, part of which went to the general fund.
- ❖ We also received the grant of \$5,000 Pastor Lauren received for the Create Peace program.
- ❖ Details of the financial summary and budget were discussed.
- ❖ Our designated memorial fund has funds from several memorials, and PL is discussing with the families, when appropriate, how they would like to allocate those funds.
- ❖ We are in great need of new counters. Shannon is currently looking for someone to help count the offerings for this past Sunday. We need more help long-term. We are hoping to get new volunteers as the worship time change, but we should ask members we know if they are willing to become a counter; training is provided.
- ❖ As an aside, we also need more ushers, members of property committee, and A/V. We plan to use Realm to gather info on gifts/talents to garner volunteers. Time and talent cards were done in past, but the last one was not successful. We can make announcements at church, but personal asks are still the most effective. Pastor Lauren does a lot of personal asks, but Realm data will be helpful in recognizing which talents members have.

3. Constitution Review – Melissa

- ❖ Our current constitution is from 2009. We are reviewing, updating, reviewing again, and will present a proposed update to the congregation in order to be current with the ELCA's model constitution. We will invite the congregation to be a part of the update after our initial review.
- ❖ Melissa projected our current constitution on a screen for us to review how our old version varies from the more recent ELCA model constitution. We reviewed each color-coded, highlighted section and made decisions on amending/updating. ElizaBeth was kind enough to update the document as we made decisions.
- ❖ We agreed to add the finance committee and personnel committee to the constitution; these committees also need bylaws. The constitution team will develop wording and bring back to council at the next meeting.
- ❖ Our current constitution bylaws specify that our Annual Congregational Meeting is to be held in May. We discussed the benefit of changing from a calendar year to a fiscal year and agreed to revisit this after the constitution updating. The benefit of a fiscal year is that it more closely aligns with our program year; it also allows us to hold a congregational meeting to vote on the budget at a more convenient time of year than during Advent or after the new year begins, as we did this year.
- ❖ We discussed the possibility of changing the way council officers are elected. Currently, council internally elects officers. We discussed the pros and cons of having the congregation elect council members for a specific position (officer or liaison to an existing committee, i.e., property, personnel, etc.) Pastor Lauren will research and report at the next meeting.
- ❖ We will review our changes to the document and outstanding issues at the next meeting. We will also discuss how to best present the draft constitution to the congregation at a town hall meeting prior to next congregational meeting; this will be a separate meeting from the budget town hall meeting.

Closing Prayer – Jennie

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 11, 2018 @ 6pm. Devotion: Chris Engel