

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

Gathered in the sanctuary at 6:00 PM for devotions by ElizaBeth McCay.

Present for meeting: Doug Price, Jon Williams, Jennie Carter, Tom Czelusta, Pastor Lauren Miller, John Voight, Elizabeth Stevens, ElizaBeth McCay, Vicar Melissa Woeppel, Chris Engel, Sue Mueller. Absent: Crystal Pariseau, Shannon Hofer. Guests: Bob McAdams, Russ Strait. Highs and lows were shared.

Old Business

1. October minutes were reviewed and approved as amended.

New Business

1. Voices of the Congregation – Bob McAdams recommended that we make all efforts to keep Vicar Melissa with us until May 2019 and that financial support be encouraged. He also reflected on his work with IMPACT and he encourages involvement.
2. Pastor's report
  - ❖ Pastor Lauren formally announced her acceptance of a call as senior pastor of Muhlenberg Lutheran Church in Harrisonburg, VA; her last Sunday will be December 24, 2018. Council will discuss the call process and interim pastors.
  - ❖ Pastor Lauren and Vicar Melissa went to the Hein-Fry Book of Faith Challenge, where Vicar Melissa presented her project on Scripture, Women, and Justice.
  - ❖ The council retreat was productive and enjoyable. Thanks to the Prices for hosting. We will have a follow-up discussion on November 28<sup>th</sup>
  - ❖ Confirmation class went to Hebron Lutheran Church on November 5. Fourteen youth attended with Vicar Melissa and Jennie Carter. Hebron just celebrated its 300 year anniversary, and the group learned about Lutheranism in America.
  - ❖ Daoud Nassar, Palestinian Christian farmer and Director of the Tent of Nations, spoke on international peace last night. It was inspiring and well-attended.
  - ❖ This Sunday Thanks+Giving service at is at 10am with pot luck afterward. Pledge cards will be distributed during service with announcements about pledging.
  - ❖ Staff are preparing for Advent services, caroling, potluck, longest night service.
  - ❖ Create Peace is still going well. We need someone to do the reporting in order to keep the grant for this program going through the spring.

## Vicar's report

- ❖ Reported on the IMPACT hearing phase that took place recently.
- ❖ Creation Care Committee: our energy audit on 11/29 will be paid by a grant. Charlottesville Climate Collaborative helps businesses join the energy challenge.

### 3. Security Concerns

- ❖ Several concerns of late: the projector is missing, documents missing from a mailbox, keys have been stolen. Pastor Lauren's office was re-keyed as a result, and the code for the office was changed. Investigation is ongoing.
- ❖ Seventh Day Adventist had an inebriated person enter the church during service.
- ❖ We will look into indoor camera surveillance.

### 4. Personnel Update

- ❖ ElizaBeth, as part of the Personnel Committee, reported that Pastor Lauren gave notice to our nursery worker due to some concerns even after support was given. We have posted the position and are reviewing applications.

### 5. Audit Committee Member

- ❖ Darryl Stoll asked to be excused from the committee; we thank him for his service. John Schmidt was recently added, and Larry Craig is continuing. We are looking for another member.

### 6. Creation Care Update

- ❖ Since our energy audit will be free, the \$200 council earmarked for the audit can be kept in the Creation Care designated fund. Chris will add this designated fund.

### 7. Constitution Wrap-up

- ❖ The constitution was projected and edits were reviewed again by the council.
- ❖ Chapter 11: proposed changes about council and officer elections were reviewed.
- ❖ Chapter 13: proposed moving sections about financial secretary from chapter 11 to chapter 13. The treasurer has no term limit, so that will be added.
- ❖ Vicar Melissa will make final edits. It will be presented to the congregation, first in writing, then at two meetings with a reading offered at each before voting.

8. Financial update

- ❖ October finances: Chris and Shannon are trying to clean up VANCO, which is the company that handles the electronic giving for the church. We currently have two accounts and the finance team is trying to move everyone on to a single account so that we can minimize the monthly service charge.
- ❖ Electric fees were going up, but October was better. John re-programmed the heat pump thermostats and replaced timer for lights, which will help. Still monitoring.
- ❖ Financially, October was a break even month, but we are still 14K behind budget.
- ❖ We have \$33K in designated funds and \$5K in other cash operating funds.
- ❖ Pastoral associate fund has \$3600 in it, and that will take us through 2018.

9. 2019 Budget Discussion

- ❖ Budget worksheet was presented with 2018 monthly, YTD, annual numbers, and 2019 proposed expenses, which came from staff input and other fixed expenses.
- ❖ Expenses were presented, explained, and discussed line by line.
- ❖ Compensation for pastor should be kept as is until we know what our situation is. John Voight learned from the Bishop that an interim pastor gets a salary, housing allowance, and benefits, so there may not be any savings in salary. We will speak to the Bishop in January about what we want in a supply or interim pastor.
- ❖ We need to add a call committee expense line for 2019.
- ❖ We may need to replace our routers because Wi-fi is unreliable recently. Teresa got one quote for 2 routers/supplies/installation of \$1650. We will investigate other options. This will go under 92001 Licenses/support/subs renewal (Realm monthly fees, Jefferson Tech Services, web domain web hosting and listing).
- ❖ We will probably need a couple of new computers soon (Carla's and Pastor's).
- ❖ We will need an additional meeting on January 8 to discuss and finalize the budget planning; we will have 2018 final numbers by then. We would then meet January 15 to vote on the proposed budget we would present to the congregation. We will present it to the congregation on January 20 at a town hall meeting, and then the congregation votes on Sunday, February 3 at the annual meeting.
- ❖ We discussed pledging statistics, income, and trends as they relate to the budget.

10. Coffee hour: Council is doing coffee hour on 11/25 – volunteers are needed.

Next meeting: December 11 (potluck and caroling). ElizaBeth closed in prayer.