

Peace Leadership Council Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2018 6:00 PM

Present: Doug Price; Crystal Pariseau, John Voight, Jon Williams, ElizaBeth McCay, Chris Engel, Pastor Lauren Miller, Jennie Carter, Sue Mueller. Guest: David Poole.

Absent: Elizabeth Stevens, Shannon Hofer,

We gathered in the sanctuary for devotions by Chris Engel, then proceeded to meeting.

Old Business

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

New Business

1. Voices of the Congregation - none

2. Pastor's report – Pastor Lauren

- ❖ We have had good attendance at the new worship times. Intermingling between services is a benefit enjoyed by many.
- ❖ Create Peace launched with 41 people in attendance; one family attended from Forest Lakes North because they got our mailing. We sent 1000 postcards to neighbors and the event was in the Forest Lakes magazine. The next Create Peace is on 8/14 with Whit Whitten, drummer. We discussed the time of Create Peace; initially, the time was planned for after second service, but the Create Peace team thought the late afternoon timing would be better considering sports and daytime activities. We can reassess with experience. The November theme is cooking (Thanksgiving); December Christmas, and dancing in the spring.
- ❖ Middle school and senior high youth groups have started. Katy Wessel's Bible study started, and Pastor Lauren's Bible study will start Wed. 9/12.
- ❖ Our Fall Kick-off was great. The combined worship service was well attended, and we had 50+ people participate in community service projects. The afternoon pool party was a fun time of community.
- ❖ Katrina is working on developing an "event choir" for special Sundays rather than a weekly choir.
- ❖ Advent planning session is coming in October.

- ❖ Council retreat is on October 27. Details to come. Staff will join us for dinner. Agenda will center around developing a strategic plan for the year to come, which we will share with the congregation.

2. Financial update - Chris

- ❖ Chris presented financial update. The summer was low on giving, as usual.
- ❖ \$51K in our bank accounts; \$14K in our checking account (we would like that to be \$60K for two months operating expenses).
- ❖ August offerings were \$18,552. Expenses were slightly above expected (HVAC).
- ❖ YTD for 2018 we have income of \$240K, a deficit of about \$17K. Giving has been under expected for six out of the eight months this year. We need \$29K/mo to stay on budget, and we are averaging \$26K. Chris showed us several scenarios looking forward to the end of the year if we received below expected, as expected, and above expected offerings. Chris will continue to update the congregation.
- ❖ We discussed in the past shifting to a fiscal year starting on July 1. Chris is fine going either way. If we stay on the calendar year for 2019, the numbers presented tonight are current for beginning our budget discussion in the next couple of months.

3. Fiscal year change/Fall pledging/Stewardship - John

- ❖ It's that time of year again and the fall financial ask is upon us. This year's stewardship campaign can focus on time and talents, thanking people for all they do, and even asking people to try something different in their using of talents.
- ❖ John shared an example of a welcome packet used by another church which asks who you are and what your talents and interests in serving are. Our welcome packet tells about us and our missions, but does not ask people to offer their gifts in service. We could develop our current welcome packet to include this. This church also used a one-page annual report that is visual and easy to see and understand how the congregation worked over the year (money given, hours spent in volunteering, help provided, etc.).
- ❖ We discussed changing to a fiscal year starting July 1 from our current calendar year. There are many benefits of changing to a fiscal year (alignment with educational programming; moving budgeting away from Advent; moving budget discussions, congregational meetings, and voting from Advent; separating Stewardship in the fall from budgeting in the spring). Council agreed that this is a change we would like to make. John and Chris will investigate how we would transition and if there is anything in our constitution about this. Pastor Lauren will contact the VA Synod to ask about it. We will have a formal vote on the change after hearing updates at our next meeting. If anything is discovered against changing to a fiscal year, we will continue on a calendar year and start budget discussions

next meeting. If not, we will start discussing what we need to do to transition. As we discuss this plan, we will communicate with the congregation and ask for volunteers for a Stewardship committee; we can do this through announcements and printed info in the e-zine/SOP.

- ❖ John feels that there should be a Stewardship committee that operates all year long, celebrating our work throughout the year and also planning for the budget year. Once we get our Realm directory operating and people update their information, we can use this to recruit and organize volunteers.

4. Audit Committee member - John

- ❖ Clark Yarbrough's term on the audit committee is complete, and we need a new member to join with Larry Craig and Darrell Stoll. Please prayerfully consider members that might be suited to fill Clark's vacancy. We discussed potential people to ask to fill Clark's term.

5. Creation Care Team request – Doug

- ❖ The Creation Care Team was recently created. Vicar Melissa is starting things up, and the team is looking at events (like the informational potluck next week). The survey showed that many of the congregation feel the need for us to care for God's creation at Peace.
- ❖ The team requests \$200 to do an energy audit by LEAP (Local Energy Alliance Program). It is hoped that this money will save us money on operating costs in the long run. Vote taken and unanimously approved that we use \$200 from the building grounds/maintenance (line 92050) for an energy audit. The team will initiate this and keep us informed.

6. Constitution wrap-up - John

- ❖ We reviewed paragraphs describing the Finance Committee, Personnel committee, and Mission Endowment Fund, which need to be added to the constitution. We agreed on wording for these paragraphs.
- ❖ Pastor Lauren investigated the election of council officers by the congregation. She recommends the congregation elects officers (president, vice president, treasurer, secretary) for two year terms, with two officers alternating year terms. The treasurer has no term limit. The nominating committee would still nominate candidates. Pastor Lauren will send us a written proposal via email, and we will consider, discuss, and vote next month.

- ❖ Closing Prayer - Chris